State Missions Season of Prayer September 13-16

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

The goal for the 1987 Margaret Lacket Offering for State Missions is

Major beneficiaries of this year's offering (taken from special gifts from Mississippi Baptist churches, after a season of prayer, September 13-16), will be new missions, Central Hills, and Camp Garaywa.

The \$140,000 tagged for new missions will buy church sites through grants to local associations and mobile chapels for growing congrega-tions. The Robinson Road Church on the Gulf Coast is built on property partially paid for by the money from a new missions allocation. It is located near a subdivision where 500 homes will be built. For two black Southern Baptist churches, Faith Obedience in Gulfport and Christ Temple in Moss Point, the money was used to buy available existing buildings. Also the building for the Spanish congregation on the coast was made possible through the Margaret Lackey

Allocations for Central Hills and Camp Garaywa are, respectively, \$140,000 and \$145,000. In the past, volunteers have built many of the facilities at Central Hills. The camp continues to need volunteers and money to provide a place where boys can hear and respond to God's call. Offering money at Garaywa will be used to pay the salaries of three fulltime employees, 12 part-time employees, modernize wiring in the cabins, widen the parking area, and buy two new icemakers to facilitate three meals a day for 275 people.

Other areas which will include portions of the offering include:

*Disaster relief, \$35,000, to help fund the disaster relief unit which has taken help in the wake of floods, tornados, hurricanes, mud slides, and earthquakes.

*Special ministries, \$5,300 (\$1,900, National Baptists; \$3,400, Indians). For instance, the Margaret Lackey Offering pays a piano teacher each Saturday at the Baptist Indian Center Mrs. Calvert stated in the introducat Philadelphia. Because of this, at tion to the program material for least three churches now have a

*Church building and/pastoral aid,

*Parchman ministry, \$20,000, for an outreach ministry to the employees at Parchman Penitentiary and their

*Student work, black campuses, \$7,200. The student testimonies and activities indicate that BSU is vital to the spiritual pilgrimage of young adults who will be future leaders among black Mississippians. The allocation will fund a retreat at Garaywa, a fall convention, and leadership training for volunteer

*Missions awareness, \$7,000. This provides for writing and producing the state missions materials.

Theme of the state missions season of prayer for this year is "Mississippi ... I Am Responding." Stuart Calvert of Ashland wrote the state missions program material for all age levels. Her husband, Robert, is pastor of First Church, Ashland. She is recording secretary of Mississippi WMU and a member of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Bettye Bingham of Jackson designed the poster for the state missions season of prayer. She has a degree in art from MC, and is office secretary in the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She has done numerous art assignments for the state WMU Department since her first in 1950.

To help promote these ministries and the state mission offering itself, the Mississippi WMU, which promotes the offering, has mailed to each WMU director a packet of materials. Pastors also have received materials for promotion of the season of prayer and the offering.

A video tape of missions in the state, produced by Woman's Missionary Union, is available as a program plus, or alternative, and can be obtained from the director of missions in any of the associations. The name of it is "Mississippi Baptists ... Re-

adults: "Today the needs are presented. Mississippi Baptists will respond with our prayers, our possesfor providing emergency help, \$30,000. sions, and our presence! Won't we?"



The Baptist Kecord

"We need to be free to experiment," says Bill Crews

By Joe Westbury SAN FRANCISCO (BP) -

Southern Baptist church-starting efforts in western states will remain successful only as long as the churches are representative of the culture and are not clones of Southern congregations, the president of Golden Gate Seminary said.

"Western culture has different values than those which many Southern Baptists are familiar with, and we must present the gospel in the

context of that culture," said William ethnic congregations, we also need having "Baptist" as part of their O. Crews of Mill Valley, Calif.

Crews made his observations during a national meeting of state interfaith witness coordinators in San Francisco. The four-day session was sponsored by the interfaith witness department of the Southern Baptist of California. Home Mission Board.

"Theological baggage founded on tradition rather than Scripture needs to be jettisoned if we are to move for-

more Anglo fellowships that are not 'hung up' on the ways of worship with which we have been traditionally familiar," said the former president of the Northwest Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist General Convention

A native Texan who has served as pastor of churches in California, Oregon, and Washington, Crews said he is noticing more churches who feel ward in ministry. In addition to more they can be Southern Baptist without

names:

"These churches don't want their witness hindered by any title. Most dropped 'Southern' from their names years ago and some have deleted 'Baptist' from their signs. It doesn't mean you have to give up any distinctives or doctrines. In fact, some of these are doing a superior job of indoctrinating people into their fellowships with extensive discipleship programs.

"We need to be free to experiment with different approaches to ministry that do not compromise our beliefs." he added. "If we keep insisting on doing things like we did 40 years ago in the South, we're not going to reach very many people in the West."

California alone has 27 million residents - 10 percent of the nation's popuation and one out of every seven of the country's college students.

Joe Westbury writes for the Home Mission Board.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

State missions is missions, too

The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions period is Sept. 13 to 16. Of course, the offering will be received any time it is given, but the date mentioned is the official time frame.

The theme is "Mississippi . . . I Am Responding." The goal for the offering is \$530,000.

The state missions offering is sort of the step sister to the step sister in missions offerings. Everyone gets all choked up over the foreign mission offering, which, of course, we should do. There is not so much emotion over the home mission offering, but even so it draws more attention than does the state mission offering.

The problem is that there are many thousands of lost people in Mississippi. And the ranks of the lost are growing. We are losing the battle in our state just as we are losing it on a worldwide and nationwide basis. The lost people are lost. It doesn't matter where they are.

At least a partial solution to the problem is to give generously to the state mission offering.

The highest figure in the allocations is the one for Camp Garaywa. The offering is named for the first executive secretary of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and Camp ed to help purchase property that is needs to be done in order to ac-Garaywa is the Woman's Missionary

pi. In addition to other programs, dur- costs go too high. Also there have been ing every year some 2,000 girls attend camp there each summer. Many of them make public professions of their faith during their time at Garaywa.

The Camp Garaywa allotment is \$145,500. This will pay the salaries of three full-time employees, 12 parttime employees, modernize wiring in the cabins, widen the parking area, and buy two new ice makers in order meals a day.

The next largest allocations go to new missions and Central Hills Baptist Retreat. Both allocations are

Central Hills is the Mississippi Baptist Royal Ambassador camp, and it is operated by the Brotherhood Department. Much of the work on improving this site of natural beauty has been done by volunteers. The facilities are fine, but a sheltered place for meeting where boys can hear the gospel and the appeal of missions service is needed. The allocation to Central Hills will be used for impacting the lives of young men who will in turn have their impact upon the world.

The new missions allocation is usin the path of population growth in complish the growth of the church and

Union assembly ground in Mississip- order to obtain the property before occasions when funds from the new missions allocation were used to purchase existing buildings that meet the needs of existing congregations.

Disaster relief work has an allocation of \$35,000 in the state missions offering. Mississippi Baptists have a large tractor-trailer rig that is equipped to handle emergency details in the wake of natural disasters. It has been to better serve 275 people for three in use on several occasions in Mississippi, has been to a number of other states, and even went to Mexico City to minister following the earthquake there. A well-trained crew stands ready to move to the disaster site on a moment's notice to serve hot meals when meals would not be available otherwise and to do whatever else the volunteers can do that will alleviate suffering.

The allocation for church building/pastoral aid is \$30,000. As is suggested, this fund is used in two directions. One is for help when a church building is damaged or destroyed by fire or storm. The other is to help supplement salary figures when it is determined that a pastor needs to be full-time to do the job that

"HERE THEY COME INTO THE DRIVE-WAY. DON'T FORGET THE THREE RULES FOR DEALING WITH PULPIT COMMITTEES: ALWAYS SMILE, KNOW YOUR BIBLE, AND NEVER LET THEM SEE YOU SWEAT ! MCKEBER

is not enough money in the church to midst. pay a full-time salary. Missions work in fast-growing areas would be an example of this.

The Parchman ministry allocation is \$20,000. This is a ministry to the staff people and employees and their families at Parchman penitentiary. The penitentiary has 1,500 employees, and 150 families live on the grounds. Theirs is a stressful existence, and a

the ministry it needs to have but there caring ministry is needed in their

Other allocations are \$7,500 for student work on black college campuses, \$7,000 for missions awareness efforts, \$3,400 for work with Indians, and \$1,900 for work with National Baptists.

Missions is missions whether it is carried on in Mississippi or Bangladesh. The money is needed to carry out these missions efforts in our

Guest opinion . . .

Missionaries need books

By Gene A. Triggs

late Owen Cooper, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, found that many countries needed books. His first concern was religious books, but he noted also that school children in Third World countries did not have books from which to learn to read and write. He reasoned that if a program could be developed to collect good, used school textbooks, and books from pastors' libraries, commentaries, and Sunday School literature and ship all of this overseas, it would fill a real need very

inexpensively.

This need led to the organization of a nonprofit corporation, Books for the World, Inc., for the specific purpose of collecting and shipping books to English-speaking Third World coun-City, Miss. in April of this year for shipment to Liberia, West Africa. Also, working with the Baptist World Alliance and the Sunday School Board, mini-libraries have been shipped to pastors overseas.

Books for the World has in hand requests from dozens of SBC foreign missionaries for various kinds of

During his worldwide travels, the religious books and Bible commentaries. In some instances the requests are very specific. Said one missionary, "We can use Bible commentaries and books on doctrine, preaching, prayer, evangelism, stewardship, and family life." These books and many more are available in homes and churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Now there is a way to get these unused books to where they are needed.

Interested churches, persons, and groups may respond using one of two

Request the name and address of directly to the missionary.

Plan B:

Books may be shipped to BFTW, Yazoo City, MS 39194, where they will be sorted, packaged, and shipped to the missionary.

Churches, groups, and individuals are encouraged to participate under

Plan A or Plan B — but, participate! If books are not available, or additionally, tax deductible contributions may be made to Books for the World, Inc., P. O. Box 388, Yazoo City, MS 39194 to help with the expenses of the program. Contributions will receive newsletters and other information about the program.

Gene A. Triggs of Yazoo City is president of Books for the World.

Star of David etched on stamp

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) - A tiny the missionary, and his list of needs Star of David, a Jewish religious symfrom "Books for the World." Complete bol, was surreptitiously etched onto a tries. The first 10,000 books left Yazoo shipping instructions will be provid-\$1 stamp in 1986, according to officials of Hebrew Scholar Bernard Revel, ed so that books could be shipped of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, who found the mark after a telephone tip. Officials say this is the first time a symbol has been secretly added to a U.S. stamp.

The mark was reportedly added by Kenneth Kipperman of Silver Springs, Maryland, a government engraver. The six-pointed star was in the beard

Baptist college tuition continues upward rise

By Lonnie Wilkey

colleges make final plans for the 1987 fall semester, parents of college students will have to dig a bit deeper into their wallets for tuition and fees.

According to figures released by the College Board in New York and published by the Chronicle of Higher Education, average tuition at fouryear private schools will rise 8 percent, to \$7,110.

The news is better at Baptist colleges and universities. While the average percentage increase is the same, the dollar amount is lower at most Baptist schools. Only three schools exceed the \$7,110 average.

founder of New York's Yeshiva University. The star, located to the sity in Plainview, Texas. right of Revel's lips on the stamp, is plate from which the stamp was

The case has been turned over to a grand jury

NASHVILLE (BP) - As Baptist Ridge, Ark., is the lowest-priced senior college, with tuition and fees of \$2,494, a 4.9 percent increase over 1986-87. Other institutions with tuition less than \$3,000 include Brewton-Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Ga., \$2,550; and Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, Miss., \$2,784.

A year's tuition and fees at the University of Richmond (Va.) will be \$8,335, the most expensive of any Southern Baptist school. Next in line are Furman University, Greenville, S.C., \$7,314; and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., \$7,250.

Three Baptist colleges held the line on tuition and fees with no increase: Southern Baptist College in Walnut Truett McConnell College, a two-year school in Cleveland, Ga.; William carey con \$3,070; and Wayland Baptist Univer-

Mississippi College raised tuition to not visible to the naked eye, but can \$3,850, up 7.1 percent. Averett College be clearly seen on the die, the metal in Danville, Va., reported the largest percentage increase, 18.3, with tuition and fees of \$5,500.

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the Education Commission.

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Send news and communications to The Editor, Baptist Record P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

By Dan Martin and Mark Kelly

over who will control the funding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs highlighted the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee.

The committee, during its first meeting Aug. 20-21, voted to ask the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to provide a written clarification as to whether the \$448,400 allocated for the BJCPA in the 1987-88 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget is to go directly to the Baptist Joint Committee or is to be channeled through the 18-member

"The question is whether the \$448,000 appropriation goes to the **Baptist Joint Committee or comes to** us for some say-so," said Chairman Samuel T. Currin of Raleigh, N.C.

Currin, who has been U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, but who soon will become a state superior court judge, said he believes the revisions in Bylaw 18, adopted at the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC, created a Public Affairs Committee to "operate separately, but also as part of the Baptist Joint Committee.'

Historically, the Public Affairs Committee - one of three SBC standing committees - has been a con-

NASHVILLE (BP) - A dispute duit through which the SBC names members and provides funding for the Washington-based BJCPA, a religious liberty coalition of nine Baptist groups in the United States and Canada.

Currin told committee members he had been chairman of the PAC for four years, but said, "I have been chairman of a piece of paper."

The chairman, who told the committee he was in Israel during the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC, also said, "I believe messengers at the convention thought they were funding the Public Affairs Committee and not the **Baptist Joint Committee."**

Messengers to the 1987 annual meeting in St. Louis adopted a revision of Bylaw 18, which governs the Public Affairs Committee. The revision revamped representation on the committee and encouraged the PAC to continue to function in relationship with the Baptist Joint Committee, while suggesting it operate separately, as well.

The bylaw change increased SBC members from 15 to 18, and reduced the number of agency executives serving on the committee from nine to five, while increasing at-large members from five to 12. The sitting

(Continued on page 8)

The Second Front Page

Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 3, 1987

Published Since 1877

Mississippi Convention's focus: "United in Spirit'

By Tim Nicholas

The 152nd session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will convene at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 9-11, with the theme "United in Spirit . . . Intent on Purpose," taken from Phil. 2:2.

The program begins at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, with a pre-convention concert by the Mississippi Singing Churchmen. It concludes at 11:45 a.m. with a message by former Mississippi Baptist pastor Robert Hamblin. Hamblin is director of evangelism for the Home Mission Board. He is a former pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Major business matters include election of a president, consideration of an \$18.9 million 1988 budget, and consideration of any resolutions brought by messengers.

Other major messages will be brought by Frank Gunn, Robert Self, Earl Kelly, and Richard Jackson.

Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, is a second term president of the convention and will bring his president's address at 11:05 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, was chosen to present the annual convention sermon. He will deliver it at 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, Nov.

Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will bring his traditional missions message, at 8:30 p.m., Monday,

Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., will deliver a sermon, at 8:05 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10.

tion is the annual series of Bible sessions. Treasure messages. This year's Bible

By Dan Martin and Mark Kelly

mation of Robert H. Bork as a United

States Supreme Court justice has

been "strongly urged" by the Southern

By a 7 to 5 vote, the committee -

constituted during the 1987 annual

SBC — adopted a resolution which

commended President Reagan's

nomination of Bork and strongly urg-

ed the Senate Judiciary Committee

and the Senate to confirm the

Baptist Public Affairs Committee.

NASHVILLE (BP) - The confir-







Kelly



Ray



Payne

And Jackson, pastor of North pastor. Harbour, pastor of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, is a former pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. He will deliver a 25 minute burg. Sprinkled throughout the conven- message in each of the five convention

Special music will be by Chalie Ray Treasure speaker will be Brian Har- of Hattiesburg prior to the message music staffers at First Church, bour, a former Mississippi Baptist of Bob Hamblin. Other musical

Public Affairs Committee

Bork confirmation

groups include the choirs of the First Baptist churches of Biloxi, Brookhaven, Jackson, and Hatties-

Accompanists for the convention will be Mrs. Eva Hart, pianist, and Becky Payne, organist. They are

Tanzanian officials tell volunteers to leave area

KYELA, Tanzania (BP) — Plans for eight Southern Baptists to help Kyela Baptists in an evangelistic crusade ended abruptly Aug. 15 when Tanzanian officials told the group to leave the border district.

The volunteers had just arrived to participate in a crusade scheduled in this district, which is located in the southwestern part of the country and borders on Malawi. Southern Baptist efforts in the district have resulted in more than 40,000 baptisms during the past nine years.

The group included four pastors and two lay people from Virginia, an associate pastor from Alabama, and a pastor from Ohio.

They were restricted to a Baptist by Tanzania's Home Affairs Department. The volunteers also failed to receive an expected letter that would have allowed them to visit churches in the area.

The actions followed an incident in which local officials pointed out the volunteers apparently failed to follow orders from immigration authorities in Dar es Salaam.

Despite the loss of Americans as guest speakers, the evangelistic crusade proceeded with the scheduled involvement of Tanzanian Baptist pastors. More than 360 Tanzanians accepted Jesus Christ as Savior during the first three days of the crusade, according to Southern Baptist missionary Evelyn Knapp. Other decisions from extremely remote areas near the border with Malawi had not been reported.

The group had landed in Dar es Salaam Aug. 13 and had driven directly to a demonstration farm run by agricultural evangelist Doug Knapp, Bobby Cobbs, a lay volunteer from Roanoke, said.

The volunteers were staying at the Knapp home on the farm compound in Makwale awaiting a letter from government offices in Dar es Salaam authorizing them to speak in churches.

But officials from the immigration office and the district commissioner's office visited them two days after they arrived in Makwale, visibly upset that they had failed to report to government offices in Mbeya, Cobbs said.

"Apparently this is something new compound before being told to leave and had not been required before," Cobbs said. "The immigration officer (upon their arrival at Dar es Salaam) wrote on our passport, 'Report to Mbeya,' but did not say anythi We were in such a rush and fatigued that we did not notice it until the two officials arrived at the Knapps' home and pointed it out."

> Tanzania has a long tradition of religious freedom. Kyela has been one of the most responsive areas where Southern Baptist missionaries work in eastern Africa. Even without Americans the crusade will involve all of the 360 congregations in the which was expanded and re-32,000-member Baptist association in Kyela district.

The crusade is expected to continue until Sept. 23 and another group of volunteers is scheduled to participate (Continued on page 4)

nomination.

The committee, which held its first meeting in Nashville Aug. 20-21, also strongly urged the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, "which receives 91 percent of its subsidy from the Southern Baptist Convention cooperative funds, to issue a similar recommendation and to direct its staff to lobby on behalf of the Bork nomination.

The resolution was presented by Les Csorba III, executive director of Accuracy in Academia, of Alexandria,

Va., who was elected to the PAC in

In presenting his resolution, Csorba said the Public Affairs Committee "does have a responsibility to represent the convention on First Amendment issues, and adopting this resolution is consistent with that."

The resolution says Bork, "by all the historical judicial standards, including legal reasoning ability, highquality legal opinions and scholarly writings and judicial temperament, is

(Continued on page 5)

Mississippi Baptist Convention 1988 proposed budget

Thursday, September 3, 1387

1988 MBCB Proposed Budget	1987 Revised	% Of Total	1988 Proposed	% Of Total	Amt. Of Incr.	% Of Incr.
Expanded Church Annuity Plan	251,330	1.38%	680,000		428,670	170.56%
	6,624,950	36.50%	6,746,950	37.00%	122,000	1.84%
SBC GRAND TOTAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES			大 有。在			0.00%
Christian Education	3,229,222	17.79%	3,229,222	17.71%	0	0.0076
Special Clarke Allocation	0	0.00%	55,095	0.30%	55,095	0.00%
Christian Ed. Cap. Needs	570,519	3.14%	570,519	3.13%	0	0.00%
Unified Endowment Camp.	200,000	1.10%	200,000	1.10% 0.17%	0	0.00%
MBMC-Education	31,379	0.17%	31,379	0.17%	0	0.00%
MBMC-Hardship Assistance	80,823	0.45%	80,823	0.31%	0	0.00%
MBMC-Capital Needs	57,052	0.31%	57,052	1.97%	16,755	4.88%
Childrens Village	343,245	1.89%	360,000	0.70%	45	0.04%
Ministerial Education Bd.	127,955	0.70%	128,000	0.77%	3,650	2.67%
Christian Action Comm.	136,692	0.75%	140,342 135,711	0.74%	922	0.68%
Baptist Foundation	134,789	0.74%	31,034	0.17%	-26	-0.08%
Historical Commission	31,060	0.17%	135,301	0.74%	2,328	1.75%
MS Baptist Bi-Racial Comm.	132,973	0.73%				1.55%
Sub-Total	5,075,709	27.97%	5,154,478	28.27%	78,769	1.55 /0
BOARD PROGRAMS	356,000	1.96%	356,000	1.95%	0	0.00%
Convention Bd. Capital Needs	134,900	0.74%	140,000	0.77%	5,100	3.78%
Gulfshore Assembly Prog.	125,808	0.69%	180,808	0.99%	55,000	43.72%
Gulfshore Operations	105,023	0.58%	110,158	0.60%	5,135	4.89%
Program Director's Office	9,500	0.05%	10,000	0.05%	500	. 5.26%
Youth Night	98,833	0.54%	98,305	0.54%	-528	-0.53%
Broadcast Services	97,824	0.54%	101,118	0.55%	3,294	3.37%
Church Adm./Pastoral Min.	46,522	0.26%	.48,311	0.26%	1,789	3.85%
Church Building Services	69,023	0.38%	70,446	0.39%	1,423	2.06%
Associational Admin.	268,779	1.48%	276,371	1.52%	7,592	2.82%
Woman's Missionary Union	327,738	1.81%	327,738	1.80%	0	0.00%
Sunday School	272,381	1.50%	285,708	1.57%	13,327	4.89%
Church Training	183,191	1.01%	186,499	1.02%	3,308	1.81%
Brotherhood Church Music	180,098	0.99%	184,645	1.01%	4,547	2.52%
Student Work	670,275	3.69%	679,078	3.72%	8,803	1.31%
Student Centers Cap. Needs	100,000	0.55%	0	0.00%	-100,000	-100,000%
Evangelism Promotion	92,856	0.51%	95,351	0.52%	2,495	2.699
Cooperative Missions	199,563	1.10%		1.13%	5,870	2.949 -15.919
Stewardship & CP Promotion	171,685			0.79%		0.009
Subsidies to Associations	135,000			0.74%		1.339
Ch/Min Relations & Annuity	146,642			0.81%		-1.379
Building Services	679,753			3.68%		5.829
Baptist Record	245,126			1.42%		7.479
Annuity Participation	361,670			2.13%		10.899
Insurance & FICA Tax	583,319			3.55% 0.07%		-13.799
Public Relations	15,718			0.07%		35.009
Convention & Conv. Comm.	18,000			0.13%		-20,0009
Convention Annual, Diary	30,000	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE				0.00
Convention Board and Comm.	25,000			0.14%		4.63
Executive Secretary	148,961			0.83%		5.86
Business Office	161,869					24.27
Management Info Services	136,954					2.19
Total — Board Programs	6,198,01					1.90
Total — State Causes	11,273,72					1.88
Total - Coop. Prog. Allocations	17,898,67	0 98.629	6 18,235,000	100.009		
Total — Coop. Prog. Allocations Grand Total	17,898,670 18,150,00		18,235,000		765,000	4

ampers plan rally

Mississippi Campers on Mission will be celebrating their tenth anniversary this year with the fall rally Sept. 25-27 at Askew Landing Campground near Edwards.

The fellowship of Christian campers organized at the national COM rally at Toledo Bend Lake in Louisiana and formed the organization. They held their own first rally Oct. 1-2, 1977 at Okatibbee Park at Meridian with 20 families as charter members.

This fall's rally is open to COM members and to any Christian family that likes to camp and provide a witness to fellow campers. Camping fees will be \$8 per night with electrici-

ty and water hookups. Tent camping is available.

There are two fishing lakes at the campground. The owner reported to the Baptist Record that he just saw a bass jump out of the water. He said no license is necessary to fish there.

At the rally a catered meal is planned and reservations are necessary for those planning to eat with the group. Write COM secretary Mae Price, Route 10, Box 468, Columbus, MS 39702, by Sept. 10.

Bernard and Dot Rhines and Herbert and Marie Hughes will be hosts for the rally.

Tanzanian officials

(Continued from page 3) in September. During the past nine

years Knapp and a group of Tanzanian Baptists who work with him have baptized so many people that the area has drawn attention from throughout the Christian community for its responsiveness to the gospel.

In 1986 the number of baptisms in Kyela totaled 8 percent of those recorded through Southern Baptist foreign mission work.

Ministers, wives invited to personal growth meets

Terry Peck, Marjorie Kelly, and Ron Mumbower will be guest speakers for a personal growth con-

ference planned for ministers and wives in two Mississippi locations.

The conferences will take place Oct. 12 at First Church, McComb, and Oct. 13 at North Winona Church, Winona.

ministers and their wives to examine factors in spiritual, intrapersonal, and interpersonal growth.

Kelly

Terry Peck is a consultant in the career guidance section of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Marjorie (Mrs. Earl) Kelly is a certified ministers' wives conference leader and inspirational speaker. Ron Mumbower is





Mumbower minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson.

The two identical programs will The conferences are designed for begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:15

To register for a conference, write Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. The cost is \$20 per couple. Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, prior to Oct. 2. Note which conference will be attended.

In Philippines

Crusade plans continue despite attempted coup

the midst of the Philippines' fifth coup throughout the nation, preparing attempt in 18 months, Southern Baptist missionaries were continuing to ches while American pastors are plan for four upcoming churchplanting crusades.

American participation in the crusades will hinge on how the Western media tells the story of the most serious challenge yet to the administration of President Corazon Aquino, missionaries said.

Reached in the Philippines the evening of Aug. 28, missionary Sam Waldron said he would meet Aug. 29 with a Foreign Mission Board administrative official to plan how they will ensure that some 250 American pastors expected to participate in the crusade would be assigned only to quiet spots.

Waldron, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines, said government forces in Manila were beginning to regain control of parts of military camps and some radio and television stations they had lost during the previous 21 hours.

Waldron had talked with missionaries throughout the country, and said none of them sensed personal danger. The revolt was limited to scattered strategic spots in Manila, he said, and the rebels were mostly soldiers who sensed injustice within military ranks.

Missionaries worked all day Aug. 28. Workers at the Baptist headquarters in Manila went home early because of potential transportation problems. As news of the coup first began to filter out, the Filipino workers made jokes about it, Waldron said. But as it persisted and reports came out that airfields and radio and television stations had fallen, Waldron said he noted some discouragement and despair.

The coup came at an especially awkward time for Baptist efforts in missionaries have been working with revenge on enemies.

MANILA, Philippines (BP) - In about 250 Filipino Bible study groups them to organize officially into churscheduled to be there during the last part of the year.

Missionaries in the Philippines have asked for 232 American preachers for Mindanao and 20 for Luzon, the large northern island. Each preacher will work with a Bible study group, preaching evangelistic messages one week and church doctrine the next, and then helping the group organize into a church.

The campaigns are scheduled for Sept. 15-Oct. 2, Oct. 13-30, Nov. 3-20 and Nov. 10-24.

Leaders in the Luzon and Mindanao-Visayas conventions plan to start 395 new churches by the end of 1988. They hope about 400 preachers from the United States will help them. Their overall goal is to start 2,200 new

gospel points by 1990. Using this method of starting churches, about 75 percent of the Bible studies become churches. Some wait to organize later. "The Philippines is the most open door to the gospel we have in the world," said Gruber. "You cannot exaggerate it. When you preach, you are almost sure when you give the invitation that somebody will

Animal sacrifice church opens

HIALEAH, Fla. (EP) - Animal sacrifices will be part of the worship experience at the new Santeria church which opened Aug. 17 in Hialeah, Florida. The Santeria faith is a combination of Catholicism and an African religion, which was created by slaves in Cuba. Blood offerings, generally birds and small animals like goats, are offered to various deities during worship in hope of the Philippines. For the past year, receiving good luck, prosperity, or

Public Affairs Committee urges Bork confirmation

(Continued from page 3) extremely qualified for the United States Supreme Court."

It cites SBC resolutions to show Bork "is consistent" with the SBC position opposing homosexuality and pornography and supporting traditional Baptist views on First Amendment guarantees and the presentation of the role of religion in textbooks.

It adds the "opposition of Judge Bork's nomination has come from extremist organizations such as the People for the American Way, which has taken out full-page advertisements in major newspapers across the country and has pledged to spend \$1,000,000 to defeat his nomination. Such organizations as the People for the American Way and the National Organization of Women are led and financed by individuals who have consistently opposed the very traditional moral positions that Southern Baptists have replace retiring jurist Lewis F. Powell held."

The resolution continues: "Since Southern Baptists are concerned about the inordinate spending activities against Judge Bork's nomination by organizations who have opposed traditional morality, it is imperative that we, as the largest non-Catholic religious denomination in the United States, take a firm stand in supporting" the nomination.

Csorba's resolution also notes the nomination has been opposed by "other religious groups which are known to be on the far left end of the theological spectrum, and it is because of the actions of these groups that it is essential that members of the United States Senate know how the traditional mainstream American denominations feel about the Bork nomination "

In addition, the resolution urges "each Southern Baptist to prayerfully consider his responsibility to fulfill his civic duty to support those principles clearly supported by Southern Baptists throughout our history which will greatly be promoted if Judge Bork is confirmed by the United States Senate."

Prior to the vote, committee members were told by Harold C. Bennett, president-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, they were departing from tradition.

"I know of no time when either the from anything we have ever done."

Southern Baptist Sunday School meeting of the SBC in St. Louis. Board, said the resolution "seems more ideological than First Amendment" in concern and urged the PAC not to endorse a candidate for election. "The process of confirming a judge is part of the political process. It is not running for office, but it is running for election," he said.

Following the vote, Elder requested that his negative vote be recorded in the minutes, and added: "If this is proposed for the agenda of the meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee, I will oppose it, and if it is placed on the agenda, I will vote against it. I think the Baptist Joint Committee has no more business dealing with this than do we."

petroleum engineer from Wichita Falls, Texas, said: "I do not feel empowered to act on the issue of Judge Bork. While I am sympathetic to his nomination, I believe we should not become a body-for endorsing candidates ?

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, asked Csorba if he had any information on Bork's religious affiliation or convictions.

"His resume lists 'Protestant,' " Csorba said.

"I understand he is an agnostic, and I just thought you ought to know that," Lewis said.

Bork, who has been judge on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia since 1982, was nominated by President Reagan in early July to Jr. Confirmation hearings will begin before the 14-member Senate Judiciary Committee Sept. 15. If the confirmation clears the committee, a vote is not expected until mid- or late

In addition to supporting the Bork nomination, the Public Affairs Committee also adopted resolutions supporting the Danforth "abortionneutral" Amendment to the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 and opposing BJCPA "association" with People for the American Way.

Two other resolutions - one supporting a prayer amendment and the other opposing the inclusion of humanism in school textbooks - were postponed until the PAC's next meeting.

The resolution on the Danforth Amendment, presented by Richard Christian groups."

Another member, J.I. Ginnings, a Land, special assistant to the governor of Texas, parallels the resolution adopted by the 1987 annual meeting of the SBC, which said the Civil Rights Restoration Act "could be used in federal court to force pro-life hospitals to perform abortions."

The resolution, which was adopted During discussion on the resolution, without a negative vote, calls on the U.S. Senate to pass the Danforth Amendment and also urges "the trustees of the SBC Christian Life Commission and the BJCPA to adopt formal resolutions" in support of the amendment.

It also specifies the resolution "should not be construed as unqualified support for the Civil Rights Restoration Act, even as altered by the Danforth Amendment." In discussion, Lewis called the CRRA a threat to religious liberty and called for a complete study of the act.

Members also commended the Christian Life Commission staff "for their actions in support of an abortionneutral amendment."

The other adopted resolution, presented by Albert Lee Smith, an insurance executive from Birmingham, Ala., decries People for the American Way and its founder, TV producer Norman Lear, and a videotape circulated by the organization entitled "Life and Liberty for All Who Believe," which "is highly critical of Southern Baptist leaders."

It says the PAC believes "it is in the best interest of our convention and of the other eight Baptist denominations that the BJCPA cease and desist from any further association with People for the American Way because its record and objectives are thoroughly foreign to the objectives of our nine

Public Affairs Committee requests extra meetings

meetings — one in October and the other early in 1988 - have been requested by the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee.

During its first meeting in its revised form, the 18-member committee convention or a convention-related requested that it be given funds for the Lee Smith, a Birmingham, Ala., inagency has endorsed a person for of- two additional meetings so that it fice," Bennett said. "This is different could fulfill its responsibilities under chairman. Chairman Samuel T. Curthe revised Bylaw 18, which was rin of Raleigh, N.C., who was elected Lloyd Elder, president of the adopted during the 1987 annual

> The revision expanded the committee from 15 to 18 members and reduced the number of agency executives sitting on the committee from nine to

> It increased at-large membership from five to 12, and retained the sitting SBC president as a committee

As a standing committee, under SBC bylaws, the committee is authorized to hold one meeting per vear, with requests for additional meetings channeled through the SBC **Executive Committee.**

The action requesting additional meetings specifies the committee wishes to meet in conjunction with the

NASHVILLE (BP) - Two extra annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, scheduled Oct. 5-6, in Washington, and to hold an additional meeting to formulate its report for the SBC Book of Reports in January or early February.

> During the two-day meeting, Albert surance executive, was elected vice by the messengers to the 1987 SBC as part of the Committee on Nominations report, appointed Les Csorba III, executive director of Accuracy in Academia of Alexandria, Va., as recording secretary.

> Currin also appointed two subcommittees, one a long range planning and policy committee and the other a BJCPA staff evaluation committee.

> Richard Land, special assistant to the governor of Texas, will chair the planning and policy committee. Named to the committee are J.I. Ginnings, a petroleum engineer from Wichita Falls, Texas; Landrum P. Leavell II, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Larry L. Lewis, president of the Southern Bap-

(Continued on page 13)

Bork: religion rulings 'rigidly secularist'

WASHINGTON (BP) - Federal Ap-neither advancing nor inhibiting peals Court Judge Robert H. Bork, religion, and not result in excessive nominated as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, has said he believes the high court's record in First Amendment church-state cases has resorted in a "rigidly secularist doc-

of speeches delivered at the University of Chicago in 1984 and the Brookings Institution in 1985 made public by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, the panel that will decide whether to recommend Bork to the full Senate.

Confirmation hearings on the high court nominee, Reagan's third since taking office in 1981, are scheduled beginning Sept. 15. Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., has said he hopes the panel will vote on Bork by Oct. 1.

In an Aug. 12 televised address to the nation, Reagan made Bork's confirmation a top domestic priority, asking for public pressure on the Senate to approve the 60-year-old judge before the high court's 1987-88 term begins Oct. 5.

While noting in his Chicago address three years ago that church-state law "is a field of law with which I have had no great familiarity," Bork went on to say his study of modern religion decisions of the high court are notable for "the extraordinary power and scope of the interpretations" of both the establishment and free exercise clauses of the First Amendment.

(Those clauses read, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.")

"The establishment clause might have been read merely to preclude the recognition of an official church or to prevent discriminatory aid to one or a few religions," Bork said. "The free exercise clause might have been read and intentionally penalize religious

"Instead, both have been interbreadth and severity.'

Regarding the establishment clause repeatedly interpreted by the state - Bork specifically took to task state. the three-part test devised in 1971 to pose, have the primary effect of

entanglement between church and state.

"Those tests are obviously designed to erase all traces of religion in governmental action," Bork said.

He said further that "a relaxation Bork's views came to light in texts of current rigidly secularist doctrine would ... permit some sensible things to be done," including "the reintroduction of some religion into public schools and some greater religious symbolism in our public life."

> also endorsed discriminatory aid to sectarian schools, aiming specific criticism at a 1985 high court decision outlawing the practice of sending public schoolteachers into parochial schools at taxpayer expense to provide remedial and other specialized instruction.

> At the same time, Bork also criticized the court for expanding the free exercise clause in cases brought by citizens and religious groups against government.

> "The exceptional sweep of establishment clause doctrine has led some to conclude that there is an antireligious animus pervading the evolution of law," he said. "But that seems by no means a necessary conclusion. since the court has been almost equally assiduous in demanding religious freedom for individuals under the free exercise clause. That hardly bespeaks a hostility to religion."

As an example of what he called "the overly expansive interpretation" of the free exercise clause, Bork cited the 1972 decision in Wisconsin v. Yoder, a case brought by Amish parents challenging a state law requiring school attendance to age 16. In its ruling, the high court held on the basis of the free exercise clause that Amish parents could be exempted simply to prohibit laws that directly from the law and remove their children from school after the eighth grade. The state failed to demonstrate a "compelling interest" in applying preted to give them far greater the law to the Amish, the court ruled.

In his Chicago and Brookings speeches, Bork took the court to task for applying the compelling interest Supreme Court as requiring the in-test, suggesting he favors instead a stitutional separation of church and test that places less of a burden on the

Bork's nomination appears to have determine if the law or governmental an even chance of emerging from the practice in question violates the Con-Judiciary Committee to the floor of stitution. The test requires that the Senate. Of the panel's 14 members, law or practice have a secular pur- six - Biden; Edward M. Kennedy, D-



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STEPTER MENORIN PAGE FMB says its policies are in line with peace plan

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in August pledged to remain committed to fulfilling the denomination's mission goals in a manner that is "biblically sound, evangelistically focused, and faithful to our Baptist heritage and conviction."

A resolution introduced by Mark Corts of Winston-Salem, N.C., affirmed the work of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee and acknowledged the positive affirmation the committee has given the sonally what they believe." board's work.

The action was taken after FMB President R. Keith Parks had explained in the four-day meeting that he sees no need to change the board's procedures for missionary or staff appointments as a result of the Peace Committee's report to the convention

The Peace Committee, appointed in 1985 to discover sources of the controversy in the 14.6-million-member denomination and make recommendations for reconciliation, called upon Southern Baptist institutions to build professional staff and faculties from people who clearly reflect the domi-Baptist Faith and Message Statement

Parks noted that as the Peace Com-Richmond, Va. After its visit it noted. reported, "You're doing a much better job than we had any awareness you were doing." He said no recommendations were made regarding the processes the board has followed in the appointment of missionaries and the selection of staff.

a doctrinal statement, Parks said. work. These additions bring the total Since 1963 there also has been the force to 3,827. specific request, "Is your doctrinal position in agreement with the Bap- the southern Pacific island of New

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) - The tist Faith and Message Statement, Caledonia, the denomination's 111th and if not, please explain why not."

"And occasionally," he added, "there is a jot or a tittle that some missionary will want to argue about. But that is the basic standard we have followed. I think our position is stronger than simply saying, 'Do you agree with the Baptist Faith and Message?' or 'Would you sign this statement?'

Because we go well beyond that in requesting them to verbalize per-

All these statements are carefully reviewed, and the missionaries appointed represent what has been accepted as a Southern Baptist doctrinal position, Parks noted.

Through the years, the doctrinal beliefs of a few missionaries already under appointment have been questioned, he said. In a couple of instances, he added, the conclusion has been the missionaries' beliefs no longer represented that of Southern Baptists, and they have resigned.

Missionaries and staff come under intense scrutiny as they speak at churches, associations, and conventions and there are "lots of antennas nant theological position of Southern out there checking us out," Parks said. Baptists at large, as reflected in the But every time a question is raised by someone, a thorough investigation is made, and "I can report to you without any hesitation that your mismittee did its work, a subcommittee sionaries and staff are sound, solid, visited the Foreign Mission Board in Bible-believing Southern Baptists," he

The trustee meeting concentrated on dialogue sessions, with business held to a minimum. The board appointed 66 new missionaries, reappointed two and employed two for Cooperative Services International, the entity through which Southern For many years, the board has had Baptists can respond to requests from each missionary candidate write out countries where missionaries cannot

One of the new couples will serve on .

mission field. The new personnel bring to 314 the number approved so far this year.

The board also moved ahead with steps to seek a vice president for communications. Nannie Lou Crotts of Phoenix, Ariz., chairman of the communications and public relations committee, said after a joint meeting with the strategy committee, any input on qualifications for this vice president or suggestions of names to be considered should be submitted to Parks by Sept. 1.

In the dialogues, board trustees took another look at their policy limiting career missionaries to those who have not been divorced but made no recommendation for change. They also heard reports by two visiting Chinese pastors and discussed Baptist polity with James Sullivan, retired head of the Southern Baptist Sunday School

Discussion of the divorce policy stemmed from questions raised at the board's April meeting. Harlan Spurgeon, vice president for mission management and personnel, pointed out that from its beginning in 1845, the board has not appointed divorced people as missionaries. The board's present policy statement on divorce, approved in 1980, reaffirms the longstanding policy for career missionaries and other commissioned categories of service.

A few exceptions have been made for Mission Service Corps personnel based on careful study of individual circumstances and the fields where they would be serving, Spurgeon said.

In addition to the biblical concerns about divorce, the policy notes there are distinctive elements overseas that justify great concern in dealing with the question. These include the need for a clear presentation of the Christian ideal in marriage, convictions among national Christians in other countries, and stress factors overseas -Devotional

The Bible: reveals the Savior

By Ruth Allen

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life (John 5:39-40 NIV)

Since my early teens, study of and teaching the Bible has been my calling. Regular Sunday School and worship attendance assisted in laying a basic foundation of the Bible. However, I am profoundly indebted to Dr. Howard Spell

and the late Rev. E. L. Douglas, professors at Mississippi College, who helped me discern the Bible's uniqueness. Also, 17 years' teaching Bible courses at Jackson Preparatory School has necessitated my emphasizing the role of the Bible in the lives of people.

The Bible is composed of 66 books, attributed to more than 40 writers over a period of about 1,400 years. They were people of varied interests, education, training, and lands. Yet, when they wrote, they all spoke of one theme - one Person, one Promise, and one Purpose.

Becoming enthralled with the conveyor of Truth, rather than the Truth revealed, one can worship a book very easily. The Pharisees worshipped the written law and oral traditions. Consequently, they were unable to see the Scriptures as the "guardian of the law who would bring the child to the schoolmaster." They totally missed the point!

In conversing with the Pharisees, Jesus was speaking from their point of view, "because you think." They had misused the Scriptures and were guilty of making mechanical use of the letter of the Scriptures as a means of salvation. Only as the Scriptures bear witness to Jesus can their true value be

Herein lies the tragedy of their mistaken ideas. They simply "loved darkness rather than light," which ultimately became total rejection. Jesus alone gives eternal and abundant life, as well as the power to live life to full measure.

Let me introduce you to Jesus. In John 5:36 we read, "Whoever puts his faith in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see that life, for God's wrath remains on him."

May your Bible be used to live this full and meaningful life. May you study the Scriptures to know Jesus and then introduce him to others.

Ruth (Mrs. Judd) Allen is a resident of Jackson and is Bible teacher at Jackson Preparatory School.

unusually strong in personal qualities, emotional maturity, and family life.

Two trustees expressed discomfort with the board's policy, one urging that each case be studied individually. But most trustees who spoke were against relaxation of the present policy, and no changes were recommended.

Chinese pastors Shi Qi Gui and Lei Tong, completing a four-week, ninecity preaching tour of the United States, received Bible concordances

that require missionaries to be as gifts from the board. The pastors said they had felt a heart bond with Christians they had met in this country but were concerned about reports that many Southern Baptists did not attend worship services.

"God has blessed America," Shi said. He noted that for more than 100 years Americans have had no war on their own soil and said Christians here should remember God's grace and seek diligently to share the gospel in their own land.

Bob Stanley writes for the FMB.

Theologians schedule discussion of atonement

NEW ORLEANS - Two Southern Baptist theologians have scheduled a public discussion of the atonement of Christ in an effort both hope will have a peacemaking effect.

Fisher Humphreys, professor of theology at New Orleans Seminary, and Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, will discuss their views of the death of Christ during an Oct. 19 forum on the New Orleans Seminary campus. The discussion is set for 1-4

"This conference is a part of the seminary's response to the Peace Committee report," said Paul Robertson, director of continuing education at the seminary. "We are committed to promoting sincere, healthy dialogue on key theological issues. We believe this conference will lead us in the direction of a better understanding of one another's positions."

like the phrase peacemaking, and that is the source of (the effort), . . . I hope it would have a peacemaking effect.

"In the past, a lot of us felt that the best hope for peace was to be silent gical differences." he said. "Now, we are coming to feel that the best way to wage peace is to have open discussion of theological issues."

"I always think it's better to talk to one another than about one another," noted Patterson, who is a graduate of the New Orleans institution.

The discussion grew out of a meeting between the two theologians during the recent Southern Baptist Convention, but has roots dating to the beginning of the current theological/political controversy in the denomination.

In 1980, Patterson responded to a call to name liberals in the SBC seminaries by issuing a paper that listed several names and accompany-

phreys was one of those named, along with quotes from his book, "The Death of Christ," which had caused concern to Patterson and others.

out of context and "certainly do not fairly represent my view of the atonement." Nevertheless, the criticism continued from a number of persons through the years, he said.

Earlier this year, while participating in the Conference on Biblical Inerrancy in Ridgecrest, N.C., Humphreys said he became concerned he had done all he could to foster reconciliation in the denomination.

That concern led to a meeting between the NOBTS professor and Patterson, along with friends of each one, during the SBC gathering in St. Louis.

"My idea was to talk to him about it (the atonement) and see if by talking we could arrive at any kind of Humphreys added.

Humphreys explained, "I really do ing quotations and remarks. Hum- understanding, "Humphreys explained, adding that he felt the meeting was beneficial in clarifying some

Following that meeting and upon Humphreys asserted - and still returning from the convention, Humgoing public with their discussion of the atonement. NOBTS President Landrum P. Leavell II approved the idea. When Humphreys contacted Patterson, the Dallas educator agreed to participate in the public meeting.

The three-hour discussion of the work of Christ will begin with affirmations of what the two theologians holds in common, then move to a discussion of their differing viewpoints of the death of Christ, Humphreys said.

Both men emphasize that the atonement is a unique act of God and is central to Christianity. Much of the disagreement falls in the area of human analogies of the atonement,

Patterson said he has hopes the discussion will provide "clarification that would enable people to see (Hum-

phreys) as a solid evangelical."

Nevertheless, he added that the "jury is still out on precisely what maintains - the quotes were taken phreys considered the possibility of (Humphreys) means in the book." Patterson said he respects what Humphreys indicates his intentions were in the book, but his questions about whether they were accomplished.

Persons planning to attend the discussion should pre-register through the Office of Continuing Education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3260.

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Any church can grow

By Tim Nicholas

The routine won't cut it anymore. Mississippi Baptist churches are hurting statistically and something has to change. The stats show that 68 percent of all Mississippi Baptist churches that would be more than 1,300 - are either not growing numerically or have begun a decline.

Besides the increasing numbers of people who are hurting - physically, spiritually, emotionally — the stats show that an ever increasing number of special needs groups are not being reached by the church. These groups include the aging, handicapped, ethnics, singles, and the poor.

What to do? One way to look at the problem is to take a hard look at the local church itself and analyze what it can do right there in meeting needs and reaching out to a lost and hurting

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has developed a plan for helping churches make this analysis and is promoting helps which show that any church can grow in some way.

Bold New Growth Mississippi is the tunities that abound when they decide ships begun in choir.

unchurched people. (Incidentally, that New units reach more people for is unlikely. Stats show that at least 25 Christ, they grow faster, involve more percent of all Mississippians have no people in spiritual growth, develop church affiliation whatsoever.) But more persons as leaders, involve more

perhaps there is no missions organization for children in the church. Or perhaps there is no provision for Bible study for the homebound.

Materials mailed to each Mississippi Baptist church is tagged to help churches survey needs and respond to whatever opportunities avail themselves.

The central idea of Bold New Growth comes from the current Southern Baptist emphasis on reaching lost people, developing believers, and strengthening missions. This emphasis is a part of the Bold Mission Thrust idea of attempting to make the gospel message available to everyone before the end of the century.

Bold New Growth exists to help churches start new units. These new units could be anything from beginning that homebound program to opening a crisis closet to adding a senior adult choir.

The idea of having ideas is contagious. Once a church begins thinking about growth in any area that term "possibility thinking" can come promotion plan developed by an into play. And new believers come out MBCB committee and coordinated of all church programs. Ask any through the program director's office minister of music about the changed to make churches aware of the oppor- lives that come about from relation-

The promotional materials explain Some communities may have few the reasons for Bold New Growth:

people in missions and ministry activities, increase financial support, and reach people not previously

A new unit, according to the committee at the convention board which developed the promotional plan, is any type of work which attempts to reach people, develop believers, or strengthen missions.

Along with the self analysis materials is a series of brochures developed for virtually every area of the church which should help plant those growth ideas. All directors of missions have a videotape which discusses Bold New Growth, and an audio cassette tape is being mailed to each of the nearly 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches. The launch for the promotional plan is October 1.

"We think Southern Baptists are serious about our commitment to Bold Mission Trust. This is what the mission of Christ is all about," says Julius Thompson who chairs the Bold New Growth steering committee for the board. Others on the committee are Chester Vaughn, Keith Wilkinson, John McBride, David Michel, and Ray Grissett. Their plans were developed out of meetings with pastors, directors of missions, and others.

Thompson hopes pastors will bring together key leaders in the church, such as members of the church council, to discuss the utilization of the **Wi77!77!5**5

seen, a church creates a unit, enlists there is a need for starting a new the folks to minister, says Thompson.

Thompson says this is not a "counting noses" project. "This is to reach people. Some churches may say there is no numeric need. But every church needs instruments and focus on con- has need for discipleship growth," he cerns for growth. Once the need is says. And a church may discover

and trains the leaders, and goes after church-type mission in another neighborhood.

"This is to knock people out of ruts to use non-traditional ways of reaching people," says Thompson. "We need to do unconventional things in order to reach these masses of peo-

Any ideas?

To boldly go where no ministry has gone before

To get a church of dead center in thinking about how it can grow, here is a list of possibilities. The list is, of course, incomplete. But it should do for a start. This list is taken directly from printed materials sent to every Southern Baptist church in Mississippi.

Sunday School

New Sunday Schools to reach groups not attending existing Sunday Schools Homebound department

Cradle roll department Backyard Bible club **Mission VBS**

Outreach Bible study groups for adults and youths

New Sunday School classes in the present organization

New SS departments

Adults Away Bible study groups in nursing homes, fire stations, hospitals, or other institutions

Pastor's class **Vacation Bible School** Sunday School at night

Special ministries (deaf, mentally handicapped, blind. It only takes one to make a need) Adult VBS

WMU

Mission Friends organizations Girls in Action Acteens **Baptist Young Women Baptist Women** Mission study groups Mission Action groups Big A clubs Baptist nursing fellowships Campus Baptist Young Women

Church Training

New Church Training departments for preschool and children New Church Training groups for youths and adults Masterlife group Disciple Youth group Prime time pastor's seminars New member training class **Church Training leader training** Short-term study groups using

Equipping Center modules

Wednesday evening Church Train-

Church Training groups for college and career adults

Church Training groups for young married adults

Evangelism

Church Evangelism Council to assist the pastor

Community evangelism services in the jail, resort areas, shopping areas Revival services in unchurched

Andrew Club - bringing your brothers in the community to Christ Developing specific prayer ministries

Brotherhood

Senior Adult Men **Baptist Men** Collegiate Baptist Young Men Career Baptist Young Men Pioneers Crusaders Lads Prayer groups Witnessing groups

THE WEST COUNTY THAT THE SEE THE

Disaster response teams Jail ministries

Mission project groups

Mission fellowships such as in agriculture, church renewal, construction, education, ham radio, and medical-dental work

Missions

Church-type missions for people of

Ministries to people in jails and to their families

Ministries to people in hospitals, nursing homes, military installations, leisure settings, retardation centers, shopping malls, mobile home parks, apartments, and condominiums

Ministries to illiterate adults, those who cannot speak English, people in

Ministries to language-culture groups, refugees, truckers, and

Kindergarten/ day care/Mother's

listed several names and accompany

Church Music

Small vocal groups (duet, trio, quarter or ensemble)

Instrumental groups

Ethnic/language music groups Music planning/administrative

Music training groups Choirs for any age group

Seven last words

The kicker on the headline at the top of the page gives the initials for what some would consider to be the "Seven Last Words of the Church." They signify that some resist any change of any kind. They stand for "We Never Did It That Way Before."

into or one annoner's positions.



Ken Anderson, dean of one of the schools at Super Summer held at Mississippi College, leads a class. The deans at Super Summer were responsible for the classes of about 50

students. Anderson is associate pastor of Parkway Church,

- Photos by Allen Thornton.

Teens find "Unlimited Guarantee"

By Greg Smith

One super week of summer at Mississippi College may mean a super school year for youth groups around the state.

More than 200 teenagers from Ashland in North Mississippi to Biloxi on the Gulf Coast returned to their homes on August 7 after attending the first-ever Super Summer Mississippi, a week of discipleship and leadership training in Clinton. Organizers of the event had challenged churches to "give us your best, and we'll make them better.'

Supporting that pledge were 57 youth ministers and workers from all areas of the state. Together with a committed group of "team leaders," lay people who formed the key support structure of the program, these ministers spent four dynamic days discussing evangelism, Christian disciplines, decision-making, and relationships with their youths. Times of fellowship, worship, and athletic competition added to the well-rounded program.

The theme for the week, which was sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was the "Unlimited Guarantee" offered by Jesus Christ to his followers. Divided into four separate groups, or "schools," teenagers focused on their responsibilities in the contract upheld by that guarantee. By week's end, many had come to take those responsibilities more seriously.

The youths studied their Bibles, had quiet time disciplines working on scripture memory and prayer, and dealt with decision-making, relationships, and evangelism.

They had a Rainbow celebration each evening featuring Charlie Baker, pastor of Southern Hills Church, Tulsa Okla., and the musicians Gabriel from Arlington, Tex.

Super Summer was punctuated on Friday, August 7, by the annual Mississippi Baptist Youth Night program at the Jackson Coliseum. Speaker Harold Morris underscored the concepts presented during the preceding week and challenged a spirit in the air as the young people crowd of 9,000 to put those concepts in-publicly affirmed their willingness to



Family group time offers students at Super Summer a free wheeling discussion concerning the materials presented by the dean.

to practice. Super Summer participants, already primed to face the challenge, imparted some of their concern to the young people who had come only for the Youth Night

The result was a genuine outpouring of God's Spirit and the potential beginning of a revival that could rock youth ministries around Mississippi.

One group of 30 youths, from -Calvary Church, Tupelo, sat in their bus in the coliseum parking lot for an hour after the Youth Night program ended. Many who had made some sort of commitment that night shared their decisions. They wept over unsaved friends and vowed to make a difference in their schools this fall.

Those teenagers began to follow through on their promises the next weekend at a back-to-school retreat, when 70 made commitments ranging from professions of faith to pledges to witness at least once a week. That Sunday night, they shared those commitments with the adults of the church during the evening worship service. There was truly a special

follow the teachings of the Lord.

Other youth groups that benefitted for a week of Super Summer training may also have exemplified that same spirit. If so, the coming school year could, indeed, be a super one for the young people of Mississippi.

Greg Smith is minister of youth, Calvary, Tupelo.

Atheists sue lexas

AUSTIN, Tex. (EP) - The Society of Separationists, also known as American Atheists, has sued the State of Texas, claiming atheists have been systematically excluded from jury duty because they refuse to swear an oath to God.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair, founder and president emeritus of the group bringing the suit, said, "There is no ssist one in civic duties.

The suit charges that the juror's eath, which includes the phrase "so selp me God," violates the constitutional principle of church-state

Dispute arises over BJCPA's funding

(Continued from page 3) SBC president retains a seat on the

Confusion about the implications of the revision apparently centers on the action which instructs the Public Affairs Committee to function "separately" from the BJCPA and the listing in the Cooperative Program allocation budget for the Public Affairs Committee as the recipient of the \$448,400 allocation rather than the BJCPA.

Gary F. Young, pastor of First Southern Church, Phoenix, Ariz., who was chairman of a special ninemember fact-finding committee of the **Executive Committee which propos**ed the bylaw change, briefed committee members about the work of the special committee.

Young said the fact-finding committee did not recommend or intend to recommend that funding go to the PAC. "Placing the funding directly in the hands of this committee would ruin the 'jointness' of the Baptist Joint Committee. Our report to the SBC concluded that there is enough strength in jointness that we should try to make it work."

Despite Young's interpretation. committee members were divided over how the funds should be handled and members returned to the issue several times during the two-day

Richard Land, special assistant to the governor of Texas, said some messengers, Executive Committee members, and "even members of the special (fact-finding) committee" told him they thought they were funding

He added, "They (messengers) told us they wanted us to function separately, but they didn't tell us too much about how to do it."

Norris Sydnor, pastor of Riverside Church, Ft. Washington, Md., said: "This is a new day. (The bylaw revision) created a separate committee, and we are to operate as a separate committee. That is the way I voted."

Thomas E. Pratt, pastor of Calvary Church, Brighton, Colo., said a continuation of direct funding of the BJCPA was "not what I understood I was voting for in St. Louis. We understood we were voting for some control. Now, it seems we have no more control than ever.

"I do not believe we were organized to be toothless tigers, but to effect significant changes in the Baptist Joint Committee in order to preserve our participation in it," he said, adding that if the money did not flow through the PAC, then the SBC was providing "\$450,000 to support issues on which, in some cases, we are violently opposed to."

Robbie Hughes, a homemaker and member of First Church, Jackson, Miss., said: "It appears to me that the function of this committee is pracneed to call upon an imagined god to tically nullified if we have no say-so over the money. We (the SBC) provide a majority of the money and go to only one meeting (of the BJCPA) a year. Then they (the BJCPA) spend our money for the rest of the year and we have no say-so."

Three other committee members,

however, said their understanding of the action in St. Louis did not coincide with that of the others.

"That (direct funding of the PAC) is not what I understood we were voting for," said J.I. Ginnings, a petroleum engineer from Wichita Falls, Texas. "I felt the funding was status quo.

Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said he was not aware some people interpreted the bylaw change as meaning funds would go to the Public Affairs Committee. "The first time I ever heard that interpretation was at this meeting," he said.

Harold C. Bennett, presidenttreasurer of the SBC Executive Committee and treasurer of the SBC, briefed the committee on its status according to the bylaws and the business and financial plan of the convention.

"This committee is a standing committee, and standing committees do not have program money or program assignments," he said, adding, "You have the authority to meet once a year and, if additional meetings are desired, a request must be made to the Executive Committee."

Bennett said the PAC is funded through an item in the Executive Committee budget and added that the committee has no funds of its own. "If you take action that requires funds, there are no funds for this year or next year," he said.

He added he did not interpret the SBC annual meeting action as funding the PAC rather than the BJCPA. "This committee is not a legal entity. I am not about to send you any money unless I am specifically instructed to do so," he said.

The committee, during its Thursday session, agreed to report to the Executive Committee that it was divided over the intent of the bylaw change.

However, during the Friday afternoon session, Roy Gean Jr., an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., said: "I personally think we ought to make a stronger statement (to the Executive Committee). I think we should tell them we feel very strongly about this and urge them to direct that the money be channeled through our committee."

Pratt moved "that this committee express its strong sentiment to the Executive Committee that we believe funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Oct. 1, 1987, should be funneled through this committee," but later modified it to indicate the BJCPA should be funded "with the approval of this committee." The action was adopted by an 8-2 vote.

In the discussion Land specified the effort to channel the money through the PAC was not a "back door" attempt to defund the BJCPA, and said the amount going on to the Washington organization "would not necessarily be changed in amount."

Land also requested that the Executive Committee provide "written notification" of "all procedures necessary to make budget adjustments at the earliest possible opportunity," should the committee decide the PAC would not be given control over the funds.

Faces And Places by anne washburn mc williams

"God pours it out"

"The Chinese Mission of First Baptist Church, Greenville, experienced a revival the nights of July 20-22," Kenneth Forbus wrote the Baptist Record. Ted Shepherd, pastor of the mission, said revival had broken out long before this meeting began. In fact, it's been going on all year. Usually he had been baptizing about six a year, but this year the mission has seen 23 decisions for Christ, seven during the special services.

"The Lord has really been touching the lives of the older poeple," Ted Shepherd told me in his office at First Church. He'd baptized an 81-year-old. and others who were 76, 69, and 67.

"Let me tell you about the evangelist for the revival," Ted said. "He was born in Malaysia, and he speaks five languages. His name is Peter Tuck Soon Leong and he is pastor of Southwest Chinese Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. I believe the Lord sent him here.'

The evangelist preached in Cantonese, the dominant language of the Chinese in Greenville, and the only language some of the older ones speak. Since Ted does not speak Cantonese, he said, "I could not understand what he was saying, but I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Peter is a powerful evangelist. During a luncheon, he was writing on the blackboard in Chinese characters and he would pound on the board with his fist. He had their whole attention."

The first day of the revival meeting, the evangelist stayed all morning in a Chinese grocery store talking with Liu Tsin Li, age 76, a retired teacher, who had been groping for answers to his questions about God, but had not until then found them. As Ted said, "The two intellectuals got together, and God used one of them to reach the heart of the other." Mr. Li in newfound faith opened his heart to receive Christ as his Saviour. The next Sunday he testified at church. "This is the first time I have felt real peace in my heart."

With Ted Shepherd and Ed Pang, superintendent of the Chinese Mission, and Ed's wife, Mary, I visited with Mr. Li at his daughter Helen's grocery.

speaking in Cantonese, as Ed Pang daughter-in-law. translated, but I could see the happy glow in his eyes.

Mr. Li came to the United States about two years ago. In China, he was a teacher of the Chinese language, in a middle school. In the past he had sometimes attended church in China, he said, including Baptist churches, but he had never really understood or believed, until now.

Also I met Mr. Li's wife, Szeta Kit, and been baptized shortly before the revival meeting.

another grocery store, talking with obedience to Jesus would be of more



Ted Shepherd, left, pastor, Chinese Mission, Greenville, and Ed Pang, right, superintendent of the mission, talk with Liu Tsin Li, 76, and his wife, Szeta Kit, in their family grocery store. Both Mr. and Mrs. Li have been baptized this year. They came to Greenville from China about two years ago.

Chu Wah Young, 69, about the way of salvation. Mr. Young also accepted

In the Youngs' grocery store, I met Chu Wah Young's wife in the front of the store and accepted her invitation to follow her into their home in the back section of the store. There two darling little girls with black hair and bangs were sitting at a table eating. While Mrs. Young went back to get orange drinks to serve us, I asked Mr. Young, (with Mrs. Pang's help at translating) to let me take his picture with one of his little granddaughters, and he graciously obliged.

The little girls' mother, Sue, the Young's daughter-in-law, came in about that time, and said that she also is a new Christian. Though she claimed not to know English, I thought she was doing very well. She was born in China, she said, but her parents now live in England. She's been studying English in a class sponsored by First Baptist Church, Greenville.

Back at his office, Ted showed me a picture of eight English-language students in the class. Each week, five teachers (some Chinese, some Anglo) have been teaching English to 16 Chinese by use of the Laubach system. (Keith Allen began this. He and his wife, Maurine, are in Niger now as mission volunteers for a year.)

"Of the eight in this picture," Ted said, "six of them, through the influence of English class teachers, I'm happy I lived this long, so I have been led to Christ this year. One could know Jesus," he told me. He was of those six was Sue, the Youngs'

> Ted held up another picture, of two sisters and a brother, and said, "Here is an interesting story. The evangelist visited them, too."

Two young girls, Huang L. Nian and Luang Li Qing, and their brother, Huang Shu Cun, had attended the mission and were believers, but they had not publicly professed their faith or been baptized. Their parents were still in China. "Our parents don't know who had made a profession of faith about Jesus," they said, "We can't be baptized without asking them." Obedience to parents is a serious thing to On the second day of the revival, the the Chinese. But after the evangelist evangelist spent all morning in talked with the children, they saw that



Chu Wah Young, 69, converted during a recent revival, holds his granddaughter.

importance. That night during the service the two girls came forward. When their brother, sitting in the back, saw them, he ran to the front. Since then they have moved to California; their parents, who met them there, were happy over the decisions.

Actually, the beginning of this revival among the old people began in November, 1986, Ted recalled, when Howard Jiu, 70, made a profession of faith and was baptized.

Early in July, this year, Kun Hong, 35 years and had told the pastor he was a believer, but had never publicly professed his faith or been baptized, came forward and asked for baptism. Soon after that, two adult women made decisions, one of them Mr. Li's wife.

Ted has been pastor of the Chinese mission for ten years. "What do you suppose caused revival to break out this year?" I asked him.

"Faithful teachers through the years have kept on," he answered, 'not giving up. This is like God saving to us, 'Hang in there!' You labor and labor and labor, and think you can't see results. And one day God pours it out!"

(Continued next week)

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do note necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Time of need

Editor:

Late Saturday night of Aug. 15, I received a distressed telephone call in Clinton, Miss., from one of my deacons in Grenada. He and 53 others were returning from a youth retreat when our church bus developed engine problems on Highway 55, three miles south of the Grenada exit. The deacon confessed that he knew no one in Grenada and was at a loss as to what to do other than get in touch with his pastor. I immediately called Dr. Jimmy McGee, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Grenada, and told him of the situation. Dr. McGee, eagerly, set in motion prompt and efficient help. Within 40 minutes Dr. McGee, the chairman of deacons, and the youth minister brought over their own church bus and our people were on their way homeward again.

Things like this should not go unnoticed merely because they happen all the time within the larger family of Christ. Such events show forth the work of grace, and repetition should never dull our senses to such. During Sunday School, the morning after, a man reflected on the incident. "This is the Body of Christ at work," he commented. If a Christian is in a "strange town" and runs into a "problem," the town loses its strangeness and the problem its insolubility if other Christians dwell there.

First Baptist Church, Grenada: we, the members of Wildwood Baptist Church of Clinton, Miss., salute you. May God replenish you with His marvelous grace for the cheerful manner in which you helped your brothers and sisters in Christ in their time of need. Through you our Lord has been praised.

> Fred Womack, pastor Wildwood Baptist Church Clinton

A saddened town

Today, Aug. 19, would have been the proprietor's birthday and his wedding anniversary, 45 years of marriage: died March 5 this year after a 17 year future of this nation.

supper reservation for family night, Wednesday, Aug. 12. I went into the corner drugstore at 11 a.m. and talked with him briefly. Then at 4:15 p.m. I received a call from his neighbor. I arrived as the rescue squad was leaving for the hospital. He was found in the yard where he was working. It was a coronary.

A deacon, responsible for several church families, he and his wife studied discipleship during her illness. They completed Master Life I and II and then Master Builder. They Houston, Texas, for her treatments. is right. - Editor

He took classes there to learn how to give her medication.

In their bedroom hangs a crossstitched picture with these words stitched by her for their 40th wedding anniversary.

"I told you once I told you twice

You're stuck with me The rest of your life."

It was true. The light was gone from his eyes those five months after her

This quiet man married my sister when I was 10 years old. He was a brother, father image, and friend to me. He was a friend to his daughters and my 87 year old father as well as to all our family.

The florist called. An 11 year old girl had requested permission to place a red rose on his lapel.

Yes, young and old alike were saddened by the purple ribbon on the door of the corner drugstore in our small town last week.

My brother-in-law, Van R. Grisham, was owner of G & Y Drugstore, Amory, for 35 years.

> **Eugenia Kendrick** FBC, Amory

Supreme Court nominee

I urge every Southern Baptist to write immediately to the Senate Judiciary Committee, The Honorable Joe Biden, Chairman, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510, requesting the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme

Philosophically, this position is as important as the election of the next president of the United States. This is our most opportune time to halt the liberalism and lawlessness that have become our way of life in America. President Reagan feels strongly about the importance of this appointment, and every Baptist has a moral obligation to support the choice of the most politically conservative nominee available. This one appointment will but he died one week ago. His wife have a tremendous impact on the

He called the church office to make Mississippi congressmen urging them to support the president in his choice. They, too, should be contacting the Senate committee on our behalf.

Mrs. Louis Goodman, Jr. Caledonia

Your letter takes on an aura of politicism: and if it were political in nature, we could not run it. I feel that you see it is a moral situation, however, so we are running it.

I must take exception to your statement about the moral obligation of every Baptist. If there is a moral encouraged other cancer patients in obligation, and I can agree that there the church and outside while also is, it is to study the issue carefully and spending much time driving to act accordingly to what one believes

Annuity Board projects 25 percent 'Plan A' hike

DALLAS (BP) - Southern Baptist \$2.12 billion, or 13.76 percent. retirees who receive pension payments from the Formula Benefit Plan, commonly referred to as Plan A, are in line for a 25 percent increase in benefits beginning Jan. 1, 1988.

Annuity Board approved the increase July 28 in Oklahoma City and sent the recommendation on to the state Baptist conventions, all of which must approve it.

Meeting at the Oklahoma Baptist Building in the traditional away-from-Dallas summer session, the trustees unanimously voted the pay increase for Southern Baptist annuitants. They also approved a 25 percent increase in the formula benefit for annuitants who retire Dec. 31 or later.

The increases, if approved by the state conventions, will be only in the other part of an annuitant's total quirement of underwriting. retirement income.

Also excluded from increase is any temporary income benefit or educaprovisions of the Formula Benefit

Total assets grew from \$2.09 billion prior members. at the end of March to \$2.12 billion at Darold Morgan. Treasurer Harold crease of 15 to 20 percent. Richardson reported a 12-month increase in assets from \$1.86 billion to Board.

Morgan also noted a probable 4.5 percent raise in Social Security benefits in 1988 for many of the same annuitants.

In other business, trustees had Trustees of the Southern Baptist questions about a projected increase in Church Comprehensive Medical Plan premium rates for 1988.

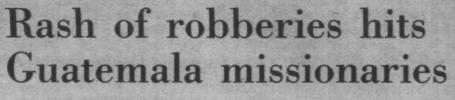
> John Dudley, senior vice president and director of the insurance services division, told trustees the plan is running a \$5 million deficit at the end of six months, a result of rising medical and hospital costs and increased

The increase that must come in 1988 is the first in three years, he noted. Dudley assured the board that losses in the plan did not result from the 1985 open enrollment campaign, when almost 10,000 people signed up for Formula Benefit Plan and not in any medical insurance without the re-

Dudley said pre-existing conditions were excluded from claims for one to two years, and separate tracking of tion benefit that is being paid under claims experience showed the open enrollment members actually had a utilization experience below that of

Church treasurers were advised the end of June, reported President early in July to expect a premium in-

Tom Miller writes for the Annuity



series of armed robberies and rob- or frighten Southern Baptist misbery attempts has plagued Southern sionaries. He recommended that arm-Baptist missionaries in Guatemala ed guards be hired, at least temthis summer, apparently as a result of a local missionary directory falling into criminal hands.

In a recent incident, missionaries Ted and Sue Lindwall returned from church Aug. 2 to find three armed men ransacking their home. The men had broken a window to get inside and had tied up a guard in the house.

Mrs. Lindwall chased one of the men out of the house with a knife. Her husband pursued the other two into the yard. But they turned on him brandishing guns, forced him to his knees and took his wallet, which contained more than \$200. Jewelry and bers tried to take the Lindwalls' car Doyle. "We're not interested in that." but could not shift the gears into

Two men tried to break into another missionary home in Guatemala City the same day but were turned away by a guard. The same week a group of known criminals tried to gain entrance to a third missionary home, and a fourth home was being watched by presumed robbers, according to missionaries.

12

These incidents follow the May 28 robbery at gunpoint of missionary Margie Carothers, whose car, wedding rings, and purse were taken.

One Baptist layman, a retired Guatemalan police official, has suggested the incidents are related and members of the church.

GUATEMALA CITY (BP) — A indicate an organized attempt to rob porarily, to protect all missionary homes in Guatemala City.

> Missionary Don Doyle, whose own house was the target of an apparent robbery attempt, agrees the incidents are related. But he said he believes the motive is money, not intimidation.

> "I feel like a group has gotten hold of information regarding our particular mission," Doyle said. "We know pretty well how it happened. We had a car stolen here recently and in that car was a directory that has all our names and addresses in it. I think they're going down the list."

'We do not want to project the imsome Baptist convention funds inside age of having to be protected by an the house also were taken. The rob- armed military guard," explained

> Apparently unrelated to the missionary robberies is the trouble surrounding Family of God Baptist Church in the city. The church has been robbed and vandalized five times in the last year.

In the latest incident, four men held a guard at gunpoint while they smashed furniture and an accordion, the church's only musical instrument, and took a Communion table. Pastor Isaac Batz said he believes the attacks are part of a systematic persecution of the church by people who do not want an evangelical witness in the community. Missionaries John and Anne Brackin are



Eupora Acteens in Ohio

The Acteens Activators Team from First Church, Eupora, spent the week of July 25-31, at Victory Baptist Chapel in Cleveland, Ohio. The team spent the week involved in Backyard Bible Clubs, Youth Fellowships, and doing activities at the Cuyahoga County Nursing Home such as bingo, ice cream social, outside games, and singing with the severely mentally retarded patients. 20 professions of faith were made the last day of Backyard Bible Club. Pictured front row, left to right: Amanda Hunter, Regina Sappington, Audrey Hill, Jennifer Parker. Back row, Renee Sappington, Julie Herrington, Carol Herrod, Jill Gibson, Elizabeth Tubbs, and Mary Jane Gibson, Acteen



Calhoun Countians build in California

A team consisting of 26, representing ten churches of Calhoun Association, worked with Feather River Baptist Church, Marysville, Calif., July 18-25. They were constructing a new church building to replace one damaged in a flood last year. The church had relocated outside the flood area. The team helped to pour part of the slab, raised the frames for all the walls, and placed many of the trusses for the roof. Part of the team conducted Vacation Bible School under a tent.

The crew saved the church approximately \$15,000 to \$17,000 in labor. Those inolved in the project were Wayne Gullett, director of missions, Tillie Gullett, Joe Grady Denton, Russell Simmons, Richard Simmons, Jean Walls, Bill Walls, Tonya Walls, Jeromy Harris, Wayne Doler, Lonnie Waller, Philip Caples, Jud Dudley, Cathy Holder, Michael Joyner, Dale Easley, Joan Easley, Scott West, Stacia West, Charles Hollis, Lucy Hollis, James Howell, Maxine Howell, Paula Pullen, Eddie Helms, and Pam

Bogue Chitto (Pike) will celebrate its 175th anniversary November 1

anniversary. Bogue Chitto was con- Convention. stituted on Oct. 31, 1812, in what was

Chitto church that necessary steps MS. 39667.

Nov. 1, Bogue Chitto Church, Pike were taken to complete the organiza-Association, will celebrate its 175th tion of the Mississippi Baptist

The church is seeking the addresses then Marion County, Mississippi of former pastors and/or interested parties. Write Bogue Chitto Baptist It was in February 1824 in Bogue Church, Route 3, Box 110, Tylertown,

Sam Wilbanks, minister, dies

Sam Cletton Wilbanks of Kossuth, died at his home Aug. 7, 1987, age 81, after a long illness.

He had pastored Baptist churches in Alcorn, Tippah, and Tishomingo counties for over 45 years.

In many of these churches he organized Training Unions and WMUs which the churches never had before.

He also started building programs, not only helping with the labor but financing a great part of the cost.

He is survived by his wife, Cleo Parish Wilbanks of Kossuth; two sons, Charles Wilbanks of Kossuth; Sammy C. Wilbanks of Clinton; one daughter, Betty Sue Campbell, of Birmingham, Ala.; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

He and Mrs. Wilbanks had been married 60 years.

N.O. seminar will look at architecture

NEW ORLEANS - An "Architecture for Religion" seminar will be held at New Orleans Seminary, Sept. 21.

Topics to be addressed include identifying and prioritizing building needs, developing short and long range goals, staying within a budget, and planning for multiple-use spaces.

Cost for the seminar is \$48 per person (\$66 after Sept. 8). Group rates are available.

Correction

Despite the Baptist Record report in last week's issue, the Ole Miss Baptist student center cannot be built for \$10,000. Some of the other schools might like to think that's enough for Ole Miss. But, actually the center will be \$510,000 for basic construction costs.



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Seminary trustee lists goals he'd like to see met

ever any qualms about the direction trustee J. Roy McComb of Mississippi has put them to rest.

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classrooms within the parameters of the Baptist Faith and Message, they are safe at New Orleans Seminary,"

"I'd like to see us continue to employ faculty members who have academic experience and practical experience in the ministry," said McComb, who feels one of the major changes since he was a student in 1967 is the emphasis on faculty members who are "highly trained" and "experienced in

see accomplished at New Orleans Seminary are:

- to "continue to operate on a sound fiscal basis:"

- to "continue to upgrade and update the (physical aspects of the cam-

NEW ORLEANS — If there were pus) to meet the needs of students;"

- to "continue to prepare men and New Orleans Seminary is headed, women to actually do the work of ministry;"

 to "continue to keep the salaries "As long as professors operate in of our administration and faculty competitive;"

- and to "instill in young men and women a desire to honor Christ and evangelize the unsaved."

McComb, who is pastor of First Church, Columbia, Miss., takes his position as a trustee seriously, and as a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. he has special insight into the specific needs of the seminary.

"The technical description of a trustee is 'the seminary has been placed in our trust," he said. "From Other goals McComb would like to a practical standpoint, we have a responsibility to be keenly aware and involved in the seminary, giving wise counsel to the president, and setting wise policies by which the seminary will function.

"Remember, too, that the seminary

is a part of the Southern Baptist Con-seminary, . . . it gives me an interest awareness of what a student today vention, and as trustees, we are in the curriculum that perhaps non- who is going out into the ministry elected by the convention to help guide the seminary," he said.

However, "It is my own personal feeling of my responsibility that I can't be a good trustee by just going to an annual trustee meeting. I want to become more involved and be more informed than just that," he said.

So, "I come down periodically and come to class when I can," he said. "I want to keep informed in all the various aspects of the institution's life

business, administration, academics, faculty. I'm interested in all of this."

McComb, who holds a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary, feels being an alumnus of the seminary is an advantage as a

"It helps me to understand from a certain prospective what the seminary is all about," he said, "it gives me a personal touch with the seminarians would not have."

training "probably gives me some hits the road, so I know where the stumeasure of understanding the con-dent is going." troversy that the Southern Baptist Convention has been in that perhaps ed its effectiveness in training the non-seminary-trained would not students during Dr. Leavell's tenure have," said McComb.

McComb holds a special interest in practicality; CWT is one of those exthe curriculum and academics of the amples," said McComb.

Being a pastor "helps me in my Orleans Seminary.

needs," said McComb. "When I leave Furthermore, having had seminary the campus, I go to where the rubber

"I think the seminary has improvhere," he said. "There is a marriage Having been a pastor for 23 years, between academic excellence and

Breena Kent Paine writes for New

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Sunday School Board trustees approve master properties plan

and construction of a six-story office ding to the report.

Approval of the plan includes a Present membership in SBC- from fixed assets reserve funds.

Nashville Properties Master Plan for at its downtown Nashville location. A the Southern Baptist Sunday School 51.3-acre property site several miles Board was approved by trustees of the from downtown purchased in 1985 for board along with approval for, a possible warehouse/distribution preliminary work on phase one, which center is appreciating in value and includes expansion of the warehouse will not be sold for the present, accor-

Projections for future space needs The plan was developed by the of the board were made on the basis board's administration in conjunction of serving the needs of a denominawith a Trustee Space Study Committion including approximately 17.5 tee appointed in 1985 to look at long- million members by the year 2000, acterm space needs through the year cording to David Turner, director of the management services division.

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) - A commitment for the board to remain affiliated churches stands at slightly more than 14 million.

> Phase one, a \$14.2 million project approved by trustees for "direction, overall concept and preliminary cost range," includes building a multistory office-conference building above the center area of the operations building, expanding that building, and expanding parking on a remaining roof area of the building.

In response to a question from a trustee, Turner said the project can be paid for with funds already set aside in budgets of the last two years and

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\$10,000,000

HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Church Loan Collateralized Bonds

SERIES C

MINIMUM PURCHASE — \$500.00

Proceeds from the sale of the Bonds, along with other available funds of Home Mission Board, will be used to make direct loans to Baptist churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention for the financing of sites and the construction of buildings in keeping with the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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WMU, SBC, taking applications for Second Century Fund grants

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Applications are being accepted now through Sept. 15 or the first grants to be awarded from the Second Century Fund of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The WMU executive board established the fund two years ago as an endowment for the development of women's work for missions around the world, said Catherine Allen, WMU associate executive director.

Grants from the Second Century Fund will be awarded in three main areas: to support WMU leadership development in the United States, including developing WMU organizations in new areas or among new groups; to support leadership development of Baptist women and girls abroad, including assisting organizations similar to WMU; and to encourage an emphasis on WMU and missions education in Southern Baptist seminaries.

Projects which could receive fund-

ing include translating and publishing missions leaders and special gifts WMU manuals in foreign languages, providing short-term operating funds for a new state WMU organization, sponsoring a lecture at a seminary, or providing scholarships for WMU officers abroad to receive education by the WMU executive board.

"The Second Fund is designed to supplement ongoing missions work," said WMU Executive Director Carolyn Weatherford.

"It is an investment in shoring up the foundations of mission support in the future. As women and girls have the opportunity for development through literature, training and inspiration about mission, they, in turn, will lead others to support and par-ticipate to missions," Weatherford said.

The fund was established with WMU reserve funds. WMU officials expect it to grow through the years from memorial gifts, bequests from the estates of WMU members and

from donors.

All contributions to the fund will be invested as principal. Only the interest will be spent to award grants. Grants recipients will be determined

The first grant recipients will be announced and featured May 13-14, 1988, when WMU celebrates its 100th anniversary in Richmond, Va., its fund-

Applications are available by writing: Second Century Fund, Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box C-10, Birmingham, Ala. 35283-0010.

Education is not a head full of facts, but knowing how and where to find

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make

"Just as a butterfly, she has touched many"

Sebastopol Church honored Mildred Etoile Majure Easom on July 12, with a special day commemorating her 55 years of service to the church.

Mrs. Easom, affectionately known as "Ms. Etoile," was presented with an engraved plaque by her pastor, John Sharp. The day was proclaimed "Ms. Etoile Day." Several of Mrs. Easom's former Sunday School pupils publicly expressed appreciation for her work. Mrs. Jan Sharp, wife of Sebastopol's pastor, gave a short testimony of appreciation. A potluck lunch prepared by members of the church followed the service.

Mrs. Easom served as Sunday School teacher, then later was instrumental in organizing a nursery at the church. She served actively in the nursery for 26 years. In addition to her Sunday School work she served as WMU president for 25 years. "She's no ordinary teacher. We think she's terrific. Not only does she help with Sunday School, she always helps with other things such as helping the elderly get to church," Sharp said.



Etoile Easom

the day until she walked into the church filled with more than 200 members, friends, and relatives, said, "I didn't know what was taking place." "It was almost too much."

After the testimonies of appreciation, flowers and a large wooden but-terfly were presented to "Ms. Etoile." Her daughter, Gloria Richardson, explained, "Just as a butterfly, she Mrs. Easom, who didn't know about touched many people in many ways."

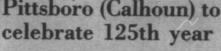
Memorial service to be held for late pastor

Mount Gilead Church, Blue Springs, is having a memorial service, Sept. 6, for C. L. Garrison, who died June 13, 1987. Garrison was pastor of Mount Gilead Church for almost eight years. He was pastor for 41 years in Mississippi, Tennessee, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

He and Mrs. Garrison were married for 49 years on April 8, 1987.

The speaker in the afternoon service, 2 p.m., will be Mitchel Williams. There will be regular morning services. Special music will be brought Buddy and Kay Bain of Tupelo morning show W.T.V.A.

Johnny McCullough is pastor.



Pittsboro Church, Calhoun County, will celebrate its 125th anniversary, Sept. 13. Sunday School will begin at 9:30, then the program will follow. John O. McMullen, pastor during the building of the present church, will bring the message at 10:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served at noon and the afternoon program will consist of singing led by E. Q. Bullard. Eudean Tutor is interim pastor.



Chester Estes

Vail Church named Church of Year

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) - Vail Baptist Church in Vail, Colo., was named Southern Baptist resort church of the year during the annual home mission conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center. Home missionary Steve Hoekstra is pastor.

Southern Baptist Home Mission **Board Resort Ministries Director Bill** Lee cited the church for its complete, far-reaching, resort ministry. The church conducts ski-slope worship services, daycamp programs, crisis ministries, backpacking trips, and youth ministries.

Home Board commissions Chester Estes

Chester Estes Jr. of Union, was commissioned into the Mission Service Corps of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, on July 26. The commissioning was held during the 11 a.m. worship hour at First Church in Union where Estes and his family are members. Terrell D. Suggs is pastor.

Acting on behalf of the HMB, Darrel D. King, acting director, Office of Spiritual Awakening at the HMB. Estes is assigned to the Office of Spiritual Awakening.

The Mission Service Corps is a special volunteer program meeting various needs across the Southern Baptist Convention in missions and evangelism. Since certification in August 1983, Estes has been teaching Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Seminars through the Office of Spiritual Awakening, across the United States.

Estes was a participant in the International Prayer Assembly in Seoul, Korea in 1984. He also served as special staff with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in "Amsterdam '86" during July 1986. He will be making a return visit to Korea in October 1987 to participate in joint Partnership Evangelism sponsored by both the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

Estes and his family will continue to make their home in Union, Mississippi.

Mozambican rebels free Southern Baptist nurse

By Jerilynn Armstrong

DALLAS (BP) - Southern Baptist ed about 125 pounds before her abduc-Kindra Bryan was released Aug. 18 by guerillas in Mozambique three months after her abduction May 13.

The Texan was released along with the six other people seized from a rural missionary clinic in the central province of Mozambique. Bryan, 28, was serving as a nurse on a Youth with a Mission team. She is in the custody of the U.S. State Department in Malawi.

Bryan, along with an Australian and five Zimbabweans, including a baby, were released after trudging 300 miles to Mozambique's border with

For two weeks the group walked 12 hours a day through jungles and rugg-

Newspaper reports said Bryan's parents, Claude and Mary Jo Free of Bryan, spoke with their daughter Aug. 18 and 19.

"She said she was well and doing, OK. She talked like she was exhausted and very weak," Free said.

The 5-foot-2 missionary who weigh

tion lost more than 25 pounds during the three-month ordeal and is being treated for malaria and dysentery, her mother said. In addition she also suffered heat exhaustion two weeks before being released.

The State Department is keeping information confidential on where the hostages were held before the twoweek trek, and the Frees have not been told where their daughter is staying in Malawi.

Tentative plans are for the nurse to fly into Houston Aug. 26, accompanied by James R. DeLoach, associate pastor of Second Church, Houston, where she is a member.

The armed guerrillas of the Mozambique National Resistance denied earlier that the seven were kidnapped. The guerrillas said they evacuated the group to safety from an area of heavy fighting.

The rebels also said Bryan was taken in order to keep the Mozambique government from abducting her and blaming it on the rebels

Friendship East (Tallahatchie): Sept. 13; worship service, 11 a.m.; lunch served in fellowship hall; singing at 1 p.m., featuring the Adams family and the McGregory family from Batesville; J. G. Thomas, pastor.

Calvary, Braxton: Sept. 6: homecoming and dedication of new annex: Pat Bufkin, pastor, Pilgrim Rest (Copiah) and former pastor of Braxton Church for many years, morning speaker; Henry Bennett,

Revival Dates

Forest, Forest: Sept. 13-17; Chester Swor, speaker; Jerry Merriman, musician; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 nightly; Charles Belt, pastor.

First, Corinth (Alcorn): Sept. 13-16; Rick Ingle, Denton, Tex., evangelist; Mike Crook, Corinth, music; services, Sunday, 10:45 and 7 p.m.; noon serces, Mon.-Wed., 7 nightly, Dennis H.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Sept. 11-12 State Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinic; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 6 p.m., 11th-12:30 p.m. 12th (CM)



Names in the News

G. Ted Taylor was honored for receiving his doctorate of education married to the former Sherri Marie with a reception in the foyer of the Ap- Jones. They have two children. plegate Building at First Church. Starkville.

Taylor, minister of education at First Church, received his doctorate Aug. 16 from Memphis State University. He received his bachelor's from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in 1974, and his master of Seminary.

A native of Knoxville, Taylor is Department of the Mississippi Baptist

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Dot Pray of Jackson served as organist at the Woman's Missionary Union Conference Aug. 22-28 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest,

Pray is keyboard specialist and religious education from Southern coordinator of nurturing and equipping emphases for the Church Music

Convention Board in Jackson.

Mike Everett, pastor of New Hope Church, Meridian pastor.

recently honored by his church family with a luncheon. He was presented a plaque for his four years of service as

Everett

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MISSISSIPPI

Committee requests more meetings

(Continued from page 5) tist Home Mission Board; and Mrs. Dudley J. (Robbie) Hughes, a homemaker from Jackson, Miss.

Currin said the planning and policy committee "will look at this committee and how it should be functioning." He also added he "jotted down" a few items the committee should study, including "what we might want as bylaws, whether we want our own staff member or staff members, whether we want our own newsletter or publication, how often we should meet and what our budget should be."

ur

ell

Named to the BJCPA staffevaluation committee, which Currin said would look at current staff members of the BJCPA, are Smith as chairman; Csorba; Roy R. Gean Jr., a Fort Smith, Ark., attorney; Thomas

E. Pratt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Brighton, Colo.; and Norris W. Sydnor Jr., pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Fort Washington,

During the meeting, two items were referred to the staff-evaluation committee, both concerning publications of the BJCPA.

Land requested an evaluation of two Baptist Press news stories, written by a staff member whom he declined to name, and Csorba and Pratt both voiced displeasure with the "lack of balance" in Report from the Capitol, the magazine published by the

The committee also heard an address by Curran Tiffany, an attorney affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals and the Christian

Legal Society, who told the committee he was authorized to "bring to you an offer of every cooperation you might wish from the NAE."

The committee is scheduled to meet again Oct. 4, in advance of the annual meeting of the BJCPA. If another meeting is authorized by the SBC Executive Committee, the Public Affairs Committee also will convene for its second meeting Oct. 6-7.

(The coverage of the PAC was written by Dan Martin, news editor of Baptist Press, the news service of the SBC, with assistance from Mark Kelly, managing editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, newsjournal of the Arkansas Baptist Convention. Kelly attended the meeting as a representative of the Southern Baptist Press Association.)

Staff Changes

Johnny Harold Breazeale, former has accepted the call as pastor of

Corinth Church. Heidelberg. Breazeale received a B.A. degree from William Carey College, and master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary.

Breazeale and Breazeale his wife, Lanette, and daughters, Melinda and Melissa, were welcomed to their new church field on Aug. 2.

Lowell Johnson has resigned as

pastor of Mace-

donia Church,

Brookhaven, and

has accepted the

pastorate of

McDowell Road

Church, Jackson,

effective Aug. 23.

He is a graduate of

Blue Mountain

College and also of

Wilson E. (Gene) Erwin has acpastor of Corinth Church, Purvis, cepted the call as pastor of Meadville Church, Meadville, and began serving Aug. 17. He and his wife, Delores, went to Meadville from Don Avenue Church, Denham Springs, La. They have two children and one grandchild.

Erwin is a 1981 graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He has been pastor of several churches in Louisiana and Mississippi.

World population: grows to five billion

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - The United Nations (UN) Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) has determined that the world's population reached 5 billion in July, 1987. On Saturday, July 11, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar attended a ceremony at a hospital in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, to mark the arrival of the baby whose birth symbolically brought the total to that figure. The global population is now increasing at the rate of 80,000,000 per year, according to the UN Information Service report.

In his speech de Cuellar spoke of the strain on the earth's resources and noted that 9 out of 10 babies are born in developing countries which are least able to provide for their physical needs. He added that the challenge of trying to lower the population growth in the world is one which must be met, for the sake of the newly arrived 5 billionth citizen, and for the future of the planet."

Bork: Court's religion rulings

(Continued from page 5) Mass.; Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va.;

Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio; Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt.; and Paul Simon, D-Ill. — have indicated they will vote against Bork.

But five others - Strom Thurmond, R-S.C.; Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah; Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo.; Charles Grassley, R-Iowa; and Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H. - have said they will

vote for the nominee.

The other three - Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz.; Howell Heflin, D-Ala.; and Arlen Specter, R-Pa. - apparently are undecided. Bork opponents on the panel need two of the three to vote against him in order to block the nomination, 8-6, inside the committee. If one of the trio votes in favor of Bork, the nomination would be reported to

the floor on a 7-7 vote, without recommendation for confirmation or

But if Bork supporters secure the votes of all three undecided panel members, the nominee would be reported favorably to the full Senate by an 8-6 margin.

Stan Hastey writes for the BP Washington bureau.

James Pugh resigned Montrose Church, Montrose, after 22 years as pastor. He and Mrs. Pugh were honored with a recognition service and reception. July 26.

New Orleans Seminary. He and his

wife, Janice, have one son, Timothy.

The Pughs will continue to live in

Just for the Record



GAs, Acteens, and RAs of Mantee Church, Mantee, recently had a recognition service using the theme, "Spotlight on Service." GA leaders are Lou Harrington and Hazel Forrester, Acteen leaders are Win Miller and Ann Stone. RA leaders are Pauline Neal, Robbie Harrington, and Steve Griffin. Terry Williams is pastor.

GA pictured are (row one, left) Randee Barnett, Danna Stone, Jennifer Womack, (row two) Rebecca Barnett, Laura Stone, Alesha Ellison, and Emily Harrington.

Acteens pictured are (row one, left) Buffie Jennings, Paige Harrington, Jennifer Brand, (row two) Angel Parker, Robyn Beasley, Jada Neal, (row three) Sherry Parker, Melissa Neal, Anita Harrington, and Beth Womack.

RAs pictured in recognition service are (row 1, left to right) Jason Womack, Ed Bart Carpenter, Landon Griffin, Kris McCarter, Richard Sullivan, Sean Griffin, (row 2,) Landon Clark, James Lee Carpenter, Taylor Gibson, Scott Griffin, (row 3) Brian Clark, Grant McCarter, Jeff Beasley, (row 4) Matt Hardin, Trent Johnson, Kim Hardin, Kevin Parker, Bart Neal, and Todd Gullette.





Zion Hill Church, Wesson (Copiah) is nearing completion of Sunday School rooms upstairs in the family life building. Initiated by secret ballot, the vote was 203 for it and nine against it. J. Frank Smith is pastor.

Old Pearl Valley Church, Philadelphia, will have a gospel sing, Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. "The Valley Christian Singers which is a ministry of Old Pearl Valley will present a concert of gospel music to kick off preparation for the new church year of Bold New Growth emphasis," says Sammy McDonald, pastor.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

The fall of Babylon: doom of the Roman Empire

By Rex Yancey Revelation 17:6-13; 18:2-5

The next three chapters of Revelation portray the doom of the Roman Empire. John includes this series in the pageant to show the fate of

Rome as it had already been foreshadowed in 14:8 and

Rome is pictured as a great harlot who sits upon many waters and practices her fornication with the kings of the earth. She is guity of spiritual fornication in her idol worship, and she entices the kings of the pro-

vinces as she conquers them to partake of the evil with her. The water over which she sits is symbolical of the people over whom she reigns.

In verse 3 John, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, sees Rome riding a covered beast which is full of blasphemous names, having seen heads and ten horns. This beast seems to BIBLE BOOK

be the empire which supports the wicked city.

The woman was dressed in luxurious and haughty splendor and held a cup in her hand. The cup had the unclean things of her fornication. These unclean things are the evils which have come of the idol worship and persecution of the Christians.

She may have been a mystery to the lost world, but not to the Christians. Rome dazzled many in her day with her splendor. The empire was hypnotized by her evil. The woman and the beast were intoxicated by the blood of the

In verse 8 Nero was such a wicked king that after his death there was a suspicion among the Christians that he would live again.

In verses 9-13, Rome was built on seven hills. There were seven kings who formed the basis of the empire: Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasion, and Titus. There

seems to be a myth that an eighth party had already been mentioned. He was the reincarnation of the evil Nero. His name was Domitian.

Ten horns represent the powers of the empire. Rome's power lay in the provinces. The ten kings are vassal kings. The one hour indicates the shortness of their reigns. Their only thought was to obey the Roman Empire which was personified in Domitian. This is the reason they persecuted the Christians. However, they too, will share in Rome's destruction.

These evil powers thought they were working out their evil purposes only to find out that they were working the purposes of God. God never loses control of human affairs. God is always working things out for the good to those who love him and share his calling.

God held Rome responsible for becoming irresponsible! God has a moral order and he allows that order to work. In other words, the punishment for sin in the life is the sin itself.

In 18:25, John includes a "Doom Song." Doom songs were a form of prophetic literature com-

mon in the prophetic books of the Old Testament (Isa. 13:19-22). The sins of Rome and the empire had gotten God's attention (piled up as high as heaven). She fell because of her fornication. The merchants of the world capitalized on her wantonness and fornication and thus had become allies in her evil.

The second voice issued a call to God's people to come out from association with the evil woman, to have no fellowship with her sins lest some of her plagues fall upon them. New Testament eschatology is entangled with ethics. If we believe Jesus is coming again, we must "come out from among them and be separate." If we have the hope of the coming of Christ, we must "purify ourselves."

We hear much today about taking the Bible literally. It is about time we put some emphasis on taking the Bible seriously. When we take the Bible seriously, it will make a difference in how we live, love, labor, and look forward to his coming again.

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

Purpose in life is not found outside of God

By Julian W. Fagan III Genesis 2:4-3:24

He was from India and was one of a group of about fifty foreign students visiting our church during a WMU ministry emphasis last

Christmas season. After the Wednesday evening service as we talked at the front of the sanctuary, he said, "I . have only one question: Why are we here on earth?" As I tried to answer this student and father of three children, I eventually came to God's purpose for us and our

response and resulting relationship. His last statement was, "A personal relationship - I will have to learn more before I can understand what you mean."

Here was a man trying to find the meaning of life outside of a relationship with God. Many professing believers appear to strive for meaning in life without fulfilling their responsibilities to God. That is likewise a hopeless struggle.

The Genesis accounts are fascinating. We discover that God is the source of human life.

UNIFORM

That life he called man. To man God gave responsibility, a helper, and limitations, all gifts from God. Male and female were created in God's image (1:26-27), but were not God. Man was given the responsibility to work in the garden where God placed him. Adam needed help, so God made a completer for him. Together they had access to all of life, even the tree of life. Our life, work, helpmates, are all given by God. Purpose in life is not found out-

Life without limitations is also purposeless. God gave one limitation to Adam and Eve fruit from one tree. The deceiver used the closed door as a means to tempt. The road to sin seems to have five stages: 1) doubting God (3:4-5), 2) choosing self (3:6), 3) feeling shame (3:7-11), 4) passing blame (3:12-13), and 5) suffering pain in judgment (3:16-19).

The second stage, choosing self, has three dimensions, none of which are of God. John calls them "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (I John 2:16). Satan

used the same temptations with Jesus (Luke 4:3, 5, 9). The fruit she thought would be good for food and her body loved food. It was also pleasing to the eye, and the eye loves pretty things. Besides, it would make her wise, like God, and then all her limitations would be removed. Adam bought the same argument, and it was done! They ate. They rejected God's limitations and their responsibilities and encountered the judgment of God upon their choice to be like God.

Sin is virtually always the same, one doubts God, then chooses self. We doubt because we forget God's gifts to us. He has given life itself. He has given us meaningful work. He has given the place in which to carry it out. To those who need help, he wants to provide a helper to stand beside. In his gifts there is no shame, no blame, no pain. However, once we begin to doubt the truth of what God has told us, we inevitably will choose our own way. We choose our way because we have forgotten our responsibilities.

We have responsibility to God. Simply, it is obedience to his Word. He has given us directions and specified those few things from which we are to stay away. Those limitations are to

We have responsibilities to each other, especially in marriage. We are to stand with each other in the marriage relationship. We are not to tempt each other or lead each other away from God. We are to stand for God when the other is tempted to go away. God's design is that we be "helpers" for each other.

The wonder of God is that there is grace even in the fall. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves; God clothed them (3:7, 21). God cursed Satan and the ground, but not man and woman. Woman would have pain and a husband-head, but she would have family. Man would have pain and sweat to provide food, but his family would eat and live. They both would now die and return to dust and could not return to the garden, but then came Christ who defeated death and gave new life.

This experience of Adam and Eve is also the experience of all believers. We would profit if we could remember God's gifts and not doubt, remember our responsibilities and not shirk them. Then, life will have true purpose and

Julian W. Fagan III is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

"We are enabled to live and serve boldly

By Al Finch 11 Timothy 1:6-14

Boldness is the spirit of the age for many who live in our world. Yet many Christians adopt a spirit of timidity or fear in the expression of our

faith. God's Spirit makes

available to us a boldness for living our spiritual lives in a non-spiritual world. From the Spirit we receive three gifts to enable us in bold living (II Timothy 1:6-7). There is the spirit of

power. One commentary, defines this power as "strength of character to be

bold in the exercise of authority." This exercise of authority may have been a problem for Timothy (I Timothy 4:12). Yet at the moment we become Christian, God's Spirit gives us all that God has to offer (Romans 8:14-17).

There is the spirit of love. This love is given

LIFE AND WORK Yes in his boldness one discovers God's power

for the expression of authority. Bold expressed in human strength but in the character of God. God is love. As Christians we are not living our life but His. We express his character by the way we live and witness.

There is the spirit of a sound mind, actually a spirit of self-control. This is plain, everyday discipline. It is resolve to put one's life in service, to cease being a sponge soaking up everything that is offered and giving nothing in return. God does his part in equipping us but man has his part in putting his gifts in service. God and man are essential parts in bold living.

With these spiritual gifts we are ENABLED TO LIVE BOLDLY (II Timothy 1:8-10). Paul exhorts Timothy to "be not . . . ashamed" and be a "partaker of the affliction." If one becomes bold in his living he may find opposition in the world. Paul was imprisoned because of his

of salvation. God has saved us and also called purpose and grace. Encouragement to witness, even in temporal difficulties, is the eternality of God's purpose and grace. It was given before the world began, manifested in the appearing. of Jesus, the Christ and reveals ("brought . . . to light") "life and immortality." So from before the world began to life eternal, God's purpose and grace are at work for our salvation.

Therefore, with these spiritual gifts we are ENABLED TO SERVE CONFIDENTLY (II Timothy 1;11-12). God's power had appointed Paul as preacher, apostle and teacher. In this appointment he served, even in suffering, without shame in confidence. "Committed" is a banking term meaning "deposited." Paul served knowing that he had put his life of service in God's unfailing hands. "Against that

day" is the extent of Paul's trust. God would not fail him, ever! In a cause, destined to succeed, one may invest his life. The final word is spoken not in our success or failure but in God's purpose and plan.

With the spiritual gifts we are ENABLED TO TEACH TRUTHFULLY (II Tim. 1:13-14). The Christian is to keep constant "the form (outline) of correct doctrine." He learns it, practices it and teaches it. God has deposited it in us, it is kept by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and we are to live and share it.

A young Christian expressed fear that his "telling" of his salvation experience would do harm. Someone may think him excessive in his witness. Yet God had been so good to him he wanted to share his experiences. This sharing is what this lesson is encouraging. We are not to be timid or ashamed but boldly live and share what God has done for us. Failure to do so is contrary to our "holy calling."

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MEMORIALS July 30, 1987 -August 11, 1987

Johnnie Sones Doris Johnson Mrs. Gracie Sparks Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L. Edwards Mrs. Charity Lee Sumner Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice **Melvin Taylor** Floyd & Jewel Malone Mr. Thurman Tedder Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett, Jr. David Thames Bobby, Joyce & Lori McGowan

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Mr. & Mrs. Max D. Ball Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Daughdrill DeVan & Ann Daughdrill Fellowship Sunday School, FBC, Roy & Pat Hicks

Mr. M. L. Tutor The Lugie Brown Family Mrs. J. W. Vassar Rev. & Mrs. J. H. Moore

Buddy & Toby Mitchell Mr. & Mrs. W. Paul Waldrup, Jr Mr. & Mrs. Trenton H. Waldrup James W. Walker, Jr. Mrs. D. C. Owen Mrs. Ethel Wallace

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